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Trazodone, meta-chlorophenylpiperazine (an hallucinogenic drug and trazodone metabolite), and the hallucinogen trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine cross-react with the EMIT®II ecstasy immunoassay in urine.

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Abstract

A series of patients whose urine screened positive for 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) using a commercial enzyme immunoassay test (Ecstasy EMIT II assay), failed to confirm by substance-specific liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry tests for MDMA. Further evaluation of these urine specimens indicates that they were positive for **trazodone** and its metabolite **meta-chlorophenylpiperazine** (m-CPP). Independent tests of standards showed significant crossreactivity on the Ecstasy EMIT II assay with **trazodone**, m-CPP, and the related recreational **drug** trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP). This is of further forensic significance because m-CPP is emerging as an illicit recreational **drug** in its own right or as an adulterant in illicit cocaine and MDMA. The hallucinogen benzylpiperazine was also assessed but found not to cross-react significantly with this assay. Patients taking **trazodone** may get false-positive results on the urine EMIT test for MDMA.

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Publication Types, MeSH Terms, Substances

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