

Common Cuts and Buffs Found in Opioids Using FTIR

Substance	What is it?	What does it do?
Caffeine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural, mild stimulant found in coffee, tea, and chocolate - When taken in high doses or for long periods of time, it may cause nausea, headaches, restlessness, insomnia, and anxiety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used to make heroin and fentanyl easier to smoke as it helps vaporize the drug - Also acts to add weight to bulk out the size of potent drugs such as fentanyl
Mannitol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural sweetener found in fruits and vegetables and used in diabetic-friendly foods - Rapidly excreted in urine when injected or taken orally - May cause mild dehydration when taken in high amounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All of these compounds are used to bulk out product to add weight (they are buffs) - All dissolve easily and none are known to be harmful at normal amounts
Inositol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type of sugar that naturally occurs in fruits, beans, grains, and nuts - Considered a pseudovitamin - It may cause nausea when ingested in high doses 	
Erythritol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sweetener used in low-sugar foods. Occurs naturally in many fruits and vegetables - No adverse effects found when administered orally or intravenously - It does not get metabolized and is excreted in urine 	
Xylitol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administered orally to treat dental decay as it does not promote tooth decay - Used intravenously as an energy source during IV nutrition - Generally nontoxic 	
Lactose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used as a pill filler (pressed and pharmaceutical) - Naturally occurring sugar in the milk of most mammals - Generally considered safe to consume and non-toxic 	
Polyethylene glycol (PEG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Found in fentanyl and other opioids when sold as 'pure' or 'raw' - When taken orally in high doses, it may cause nausea and abdominal pain - When administered intravenously it is excreted almost completely in the urine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasons are unclear as to why it's present but it likely comes in the 'raw' fentanyl
Vitamin C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naturally produced in fruits and vegetables - Commonly used to treat and prevent the common cold and several infections - Generally nontoxic, but may cause nausea, headaches, stomach cramps, and kidney stones when taken in doses higher than 2g/day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given away in OPS settings and therefore has been seen as an adulterant in opioids. Commonly used to help substances dissolve for injection
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drug used to treat fever and mild to moderate pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally regarded as safe in recommended doses (3-4g it can cause toxicity and liver failure at higher doses)
Fentanyl analogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chemical cousins of fentanyl that can have unknown strength or potency, ranging from weak to very strong - Examples: carfentanyl, furanyl fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little is known about the strength or effects of some fentanyl analogues - Drug checking with FTIR may not be able to detect the exact type of analogue present but they are not very common compared to regular fentanyl
Etizolam and other benzodiazepines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central nervous system depressant drugs used to treat people with anxiety disorders, panic attacks, sleep disorders, or seizure disorder - May cause prolonged sedation, blackouts, memory loss when taken in high amounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benzos might be added to heighten or prolong the effect of opioids. - When present in down, they increase the risk of overdose
Synthetic cannabinoids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Typically used to create synthetic cannabis which is smoked for its psychoactive effects - Examples: AMB-FUBINACA, 5F-MDMB-PINACA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no medical or commercial uses for synthetic cannabinoids; side- and long-term effects are unknown - Reasons for why they appear in down are unknown
Xylazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depressant used as a sedative for veterinary surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little is known about its effects in humans - Commonly used as heroin cut in parts of the Eastern US, much less common in BC