

# Purity of Heroin Distributed in Bangkok and Provincial Cities During 1981-1982

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## ABSTRACT

This paper describes the study of illicit heroin samples by GLC using 3% SE-30 on Gas Chrom Z (100-200 mesh) and 3% OV-210 on Gas Chrom Q (100-200 mesh) with Flame Ionization Detector. For the analysis of heroin. Codeine and caffeine, cocaine is used as internal standard. Monoacetyl-morphine and acetylcodeine are detected by acetyl derivative formation. The accuracy for the analysis of heroin, acetylcodeine, monoacetylmorphine and caffeine are in the range of 93-105% and the coefficient of variation between assays are 1.7, 3.5, 12.1 and 2.6% respectively.

Analysis of 49 heroin no.4 samples purchased from various districts in Bangkok during 1981-1982 showed that the content of heroin hydrochloride and acetylcodeine hydrochloride were 67.7-96% and 1-14% respectively. There was only one sample which contain 9.7% heroin hydrochloride.

Heroin no.3 from various provincial cities were also analysed. Results from 13 samples showed that the quantity of heroin hydrochloride and acetylcodeine hydrochloride were less than 1.75% Monoacetylmorphine hydrochloride and caffeine are in the range of 0-6.1% and 44-63% respectively. Barbitone, morphine and codeine were also found in some samples studied.

The wide range of heroin hydrochloride content in heroin no.4 and considerable adulteration of heroin no.3 with other drugs such as barbitone are very significant because the dependents only know that they used heroin and reported to intervention workers as such. Actually their physiologic changes are according to the consumed drugs which have considerable variation. Our looking of these facts introduces complication in the assessment of drug dependence problem. The findings indicate the necessity of monitoring the purity of street drug in the assessment of drug dependence problem.