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**CT Poison Control Center Public Health Alert: Released Friday, April 29, 2005**

In recent weeks, several patients have presented to Emergency Departments within the state of Connecticut with symptoms of chest pain and fast heart rate after heroin use. The patients recalled using a form of heroin labeled "Snoop Dog". Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and other states have also reported several similar cases since January 2005.

Toxicologic analysis of one of the Connecticut patients' heroin samples revealed the presence of a drug named Clenbuterol in the heroin. Clenbuterol is a beta-adrenergic agent that can cause chest pain, tachycardia (fast heart rate), low potassium levels, and high blood glucose levels. Clenbuterol does not cause heroin-like effects such as decreased respiratory rate or euphoria.

It is unknown how many other heroin users in Connecticut may be affected by the contaminated heroin. Management of patients who present with symptoms similar to those described here can be managed symptomatically (benzodiazepines may be useful for symptoms of anxiety). In cases of severe intoxication, beta-blockers can be used if there are no contraindications (such as cocaine use or severe asthma).

Please report any cases of patients with symptoms similar to those described above to the Connecticut Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

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