

ERRATUM

SYNDER, C. A., R. W. WOOD, J. F. GRAEFE, A. BOWERS AND K. MAGAR. "Crack smoke" is a respirable aerosol of cocaine base. PHARMACOL BIOCHEM BEHAV 29(1) 93-95, 1988.—

The authors wish to correct two errors that occurred in the abstract and in the second sentence of the first paragraph. The corrected text is reprinted below:

SYNDER, C. A., R. W. WOOD, J. F. GRAEFE, A. BOWERS AND K. MAGAR. 'Crack smoke' is a respirable aerosol of cocaine base. PHARMACOL BIOCHEM BEHAV 29(1) 93-95, 1988.—The smoking of cocaine base ("crack") has emerged as a significant substance abuse problem. A detailed characterization of cocaine smoke is a prerequisite for studies of its pharmacokinetics, abuse potential and toxicity. Model pipes were used to generate cocaine smoke analogous to that inhaled by human "crack" abusers. Using procedures to minimize pyrolysis, cocaine base smoke was determined to be 93.5% cocaine particles with the remainder being cocaine vapor. The average particle size generated from all model pipes was 2.3 μ which is small enough to ensure deposition into the alveolar region of the human lung. Although this particle size is eminently respirable by primates, a much smaller fraction will reach the alveolar region of rodents. Special generating procedures would therefore be required to expose rodents to meaningful doses of airborne cocaine that mimic the rapid absorption achieved by "crack" smokers.

Cocaine smoking "Crack" Aerosol inhalation

THE self-administration of cocaine ("crack") by smoking has recently emerged as a significant substance abuse problem. Cocaine base is precipitated with sodium bicarbonate from an aqueous solution of the hydrochloride salt, dried, placed in a pipe and heated. There have been very few studies concerning the characterization of the resultant cocaine smoke. Although there have been reports of the pyrolysis products generated by excessive heating of cocaine [1,7], to our knowledge there have been no studies of the aerosol characteristics of cocaine smoke.

The authors regret any inconvenience caused by this error.