



Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

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Did you know

The EPA has prohibited the general public from buying or using rodenticides that contain a long-acting anticoagulant, such as brodifacoum and bromadiolone. This restriction has resulted in a shift to using rodenticides containing bromethalin and cholecalciferol (vitamin D3). Small amounts of either ingredient can lead to toxicity in children or pets.

Bromethalin is a neurotoxin that has no specific antidote and can cause altered mental status, obtundation, cerebral edema and death.

Cholecalciferol toxicity causes elevated serum calcium and phosphorus, leading to renal failure and soft tissue calcification.

Call **1-800-222-1222** for treatment recommendations for exposure to any type of rodenticide.

Zolpidem

Zolpidem (Ambien) is a sedative-hypnotic used for the treatment of insomnia and is thought to have less addiction potential than benzodiazepines (BDZs). This medication acts on the same receptor in the brain as BDZs, but tends to act more quickly and leave the body faster. Zolpidem is less likely to cause daytime sedation, habituation and rebound insomnia compared to BDZs.

Although classified as a non-benzodiazepine drug due to its chemical structure being different than that of BDZs, its mechanism of action is similar to that of BDZs. Both classes of drugs interact with the GABA-benzodiazepine receptor complexes (specifically GABA(A) alpha-1 subunit), enhancing the function of GABA-mediated chloride channels.

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine the benefits of zolpidem 10 mg immediate release and 12.5 mg extended release were greater than the minimal potential for harm. For sleep maintenance, there was an improvement in total sleep time, a reduction in wake time after sleep onset and a moderate improvement in quality of sleep when compared with placebo.

Zolpidem can have concerning side effects. Some people who take zolpidem or similar medications, such as eszopiclone (Lunesta), do things while asleep that they don't remember — including driving, or preparing and eating food. These are dangerous behaviors. Zolpidem was associated with amnesia, dizziness, sedation, headache, nausea, and taste abnormalities. Because of these effects, the FDA has lowered the starting dosage of immediate-release zolpidem from 10 mg to 5 mg and extended-release from 12.5 mg to 6.25 mg

In an overdose, somnolence, slurred speech, confusion, and ataxia may occur. Severe effects can occur when zolpidem is co-ingested with other sedatives and may include hypotension, coma and respiratory depression. Death is rare but may be caused by respiratory depression or aspiration. Patients that present with coma are at risk for aspiration pneumonia, rhabdomyolysis, and renal failure. Severe ischemia and gangrene were seen following the intra-arterial injection of a crushed zolpidem tablet.

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**POISON
Help**

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