



# FDA warns consumers not to purchase or use Tianeptine & Kratom products due to serious risks

## Background

The term “gas station drugs” refers to a wide range of substances typically available for purchase from gas stations, corner stores, bodegas, mini marts, smoke shops, and the Internet. These substances may be produced commercially by drug manufacturers or in clandestine laboratories to mimic the effects of more well-known illicit/controlled substances such as marijuana, cocaine, opioids, etc.

## Tianeptine

Tianeptine, also known as “Gas Station Heroin” is not approved by the USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for any medical use. It has made its way to convenience stores and gas station shelves, branded as “Zaza” and “Tianna Red.” It can also be obtained online from independent vendors without a prescription.

- Illegally sold online and in stores claiming to treat various conditions like anxiety, depression, and pain.
- Other countries approve it for depression and anxiety, but also warn about its potential addiction.
- Comes in both powder and pill form.
- Since 2018, the FDA has issued multiple consumer advisories and warnings about products with tianeptine as being linked to serious harm, overdose, and death.

## Alternate names for Tianeptine

Before consuming supplements, read labels carefully and look out for the below that can be listed in the ingredients or supplement facts:

- Tianeptine
- Tianeptine sulfate
- Tianeptine sodium

## Common names for Tianeptine products

- Coaxil®
- Neptune’s Fix
- Stablon®
- Tianaa®
- Pegasus
- Red Dawn
- Tianna
- Za Za Red

## States that have banned Tianeptine

- Alabama
- Indiana
- Mississippi
- Florida
- Kentucky
- Ohio
- Georgia
- Michigan
- Tennessee

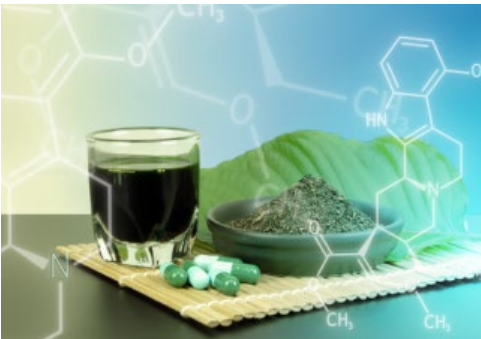


## Kratom

Kratom is a native tropical tree that has a long history of use in Southeast Asia. Consuming its leaves produces both stimulant effects (in low doses) and sedative effects (in high doses) which can lead to psychotic symptoms, psychological and physiological dependence. Kratom is mostly abused by oral ingestion in the form of tablet, capsule, or extract. Its leaves may also be chewed, dried, or powdered and ingested as tea. In recent years, the U.S. has seen a significant increase in kratom abuse.

## Kratom's Street Names

- Thang, Thom, Biak, Kakuam



Like Tianeptine, Kratom lacks FDA approval for medical use.

- Derived from a tropical tree, illegally sold online and in stores claiming to treat pain, anxiety, and opioid withdrawal.
- FDA has seized kratom products due to safety concerns.
- According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, approximately 1.7 million Americans aged 12 and older used kratom in 2021.

## Are Tianeptine & Kratom drugs or supplements?

- Neither tianeptine nor kratom are approved drugs or supplements in the USA.
- The FDA considers them unsafe food additives, making their sale illegal in the USA.

## Clinician Awareness

- Tianeptine and Kratom can lead to dependence, addiction, and overdose.
- Overdose can be treated with opioid reversal medication like naloxone.
- Withdrawal symptoms are similar to opioids and may be treated with medication like buprenorphine and naloxone.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) oversees food, drug, and medical device safety.

CDPH investigates complaints about products like tianeptine and kratom and shares findings with relevant authorities, including local health jurisdictions.

Local environmental health agencies can request stores to voluntarily remove products containing tianeptine or kratom and can impound such products.

Local environmental health agencies also provide materials about risks of these substances.

The Food and Drug Branch (FDB) of the California Department of Public Health is responsible for complaints regarding commercially processed foods, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and certain consumer products affecting Californians.

### [Consumer Complaints can be reported online](#)

If you choose to report a complaint by phone, fax, or mail please include the following information:

1. Your contact information: name, full address, and full contact number.
2. A brief description of the complaint, illness, or injury.
3. Name and location where the product was purchased.
4. A complete description of the product(s) including:
  - Brand name,
  - Product name,
  - Package size,
  - Any lot coding information (best buy date, expiration date, etc.)
  - Product manufacturer's name and address

By phone: Toll Free at 1(800) 495-3232 an automated 24-hour service

By fax: (916) 650-6650

By mail: California Department of Public Health  
Food & Drug Branch  
P.O. Box 997435 MS-7602  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7435

