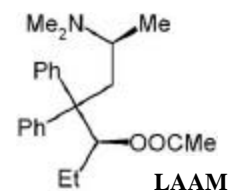




## Maryland Poison Center

# Tox Tidbits



June 2001

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

**June 28th through July 5th is "Eye Safety Awareness Week?"**

Eye exposures to various chemicals and products make up 20% of the calls to the Maryland Poison Center. Take this opportunity to educate patients and communities about the dangers of chemical eye exposures, instruct them how to properly irrigate the eye, and encourage them to call the Maryland Poison Center for further treatment information.

**For consultation on eye exposures and all poisonings call:**

**410-706-7701**  
Baltimore area

**1-800-492-2414**  
all of Maryland

#### • PLEASE SHARE!

Post and share this edition of Tox Tidbits with your colleagues. Fax any comments or questions to: Tox Tidbits, c/o Lisa at 410-706-7184.

Supported by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

## LAAM

LAAM (levo-alpha acetyl methadol, levomethadyl acetate) is a long-acting opioid agonist similar to methadone that is used to prevent craving and withdrawal symptoms associated with opioid addiction. It is dispensed only by licensed treatment programs. The usual dosage is 60-90 mg three times per week, but may vary from 10-140 mg three times per week.

LAAM was approved for take-home treatment of opioid addiction as of May 18th, 2001. New regulations issued by the DEA will also result in methadone being more accessible and taken home more often. The increased availability of LAAM and methadone will potentially result in:

- an increase in overdoses
- intravenous abuse of the oral preparation
- accidental pediatric overdoses

LAAM is only available as an oral liquid in a 10 mg/mL concentration. It is known as "purple Jesus" on the street. Intravenous administration of the oral LAAM preparation may result in symptoms within 5 minutes. Although the onset of symptoms following ingestion might be within 2-4 hours, there could be a delay of 12-14 hours since oral LAAM is metabolized to active metabolites that are more potent opioid agonists than the parent compound. The metabolites are extremely long-acting; therefore, clinical effects are expected to persist for 2-3 days. Symptoms following overdose include miosis, lethargy, coma, respiratory depression, apnea, hypotension, bradycardia, non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema, seizures, dysrhythmias and death.

All potential overdoses with LAAM (oral and intravenous) should be treated in a health care facility with observation for at least 12-24 hours. LAAM overdoses will respond to naloxone.

### Toxicology Grand Rounds:

#### ***"Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz...Do You Know What the Dosage Form Is? Misuse of Various Dosage Forms"***

**Jean C. McGrath, Pharm. D.**  
Clinical Toxicology Fellow, Maryland Poison Center

**Thursday, June 14, 2001 at 2:00 PM**  
**Room 108**

**University of Maryland Pharmacy Learning Center**  
**110 N. Pine Street Baltimore, MD 21201**

**All are welcome!**

**Call 410-706-7604 for more info!**