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Street heroin powder from seized samples had been sent to forensic toxicology laboratory. 51 samples were collected through year 2005 from Cairo City. Samples had different colours: white, brown and gray. An amount of 4 mg from each sample were dissolved in 1 ml methanol. TLC was used for detection of opiates as a preliminary test. 24 samples were positive for heroin and 27 samples were negative for heroin. These results were confirmed by HPLC and GC/MS. Heroin concentrations in heroin positive samples ranged from 0.27% to 34.56 %. Adulterants included paracetamol, tramadol, theophylline, methomyl (a carbamate), morphine, codeine, ephedrine, carbamazepine and others.

Adulteration of heroin carries the risk of toxicity from these chemicals which could be missed in diagnosis and hence treatment. Physician should put in mind the idea of mixed toxicity during treatment of acute overdose of heroin. This should encourage physicians working in emergency units to analyse for all available drugs and chemicals to avoid misdiagnosis because heroin additives will lead to change in the classical clinical picture of heroin abuse or withdrawal.

KEYWORDS: *Heroin, HPLC, GC/MS*

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