

The Cocaine Secret

(By Toshio U.-P.)

After suffering a near fatal drug overdose when a group of rogue police officers imposed me taking a bag of dissolvable pharmaceuticals through custodial mental health court, I soon found out that crack cocaine concealed as medication is even more painful on its way out of the body than earlier on when first ingested. Writhing in pain as the toxic nerve stimulant forced its way out through kidney excretion, I soon felt a prolonged, sharp sensation around the pancreatic region of my mid-thorax, lucky not to have ingested any more than my twenty-five year old body's chemical threshold.

So what is it in crack cocaine that is so toxic to the body? The truth is, when taking the noxious stimulant in its crude street drug form or in its more marketable pharmaceutical disguise, chemical tests will rarely reveal its high arsenic content. Arsenic, a metalloid element in the periodic table, was once contained in Coca-Cola soft drinks before the beverage giant decided to de-cocainize its secret sugary formula. The toxic substance contained within coca leaves when harvested as a plant, is also a known carcinogen. In other words, cases have revealed that arsenic can be linked to causing cancerous tumours in different parts of the body for those ingesting it in high volumes over extended periods of time. Olanzapine, an atypical anti-psychotic and 'coca neuroleptic', can potentially cause brain tumours to consumers taking it in a high dose for their mental health conditions or psychosis. 'Klanzapine', a nickname given to the drug by racialized community members, can be linked to depression, the onset of diabetes, CNS (Central Nervous System) damage manifested first as EPS (Extrapyramidal side effects) and even brain cancer. This negative nickname expresses the toil and unjust power dynamics that consumers of the E. Lilly and Co. medication experience in their daily lives with their imposed dose of cocaine in its pharmaceutical 'crack-bicarbonate' form. Another relatively unknown use of neuroleptics with hidden arsenic content is tied in to their metalloid semi-conductivity when paired with Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT). Once ingested as Olanzapine (or 'Ola'), the application of electrodes on both temples of the shock victim generates a corresponding brain scan or ECT Scan (ECTS). It is not uncommon for ECT Scans to reveal the presence of brain tumours located in the ventricles of patients with diagnoses of schizophrenia, who have high amounts of residual arsenic affecting their brain cells and tissue. ECTS are often used to further stigmatize c/s/x/m/d (consumer/survivor/ex-patient/mad/diagnosed) community members suffering chemically induced brain impairment.