Psychopharmacological dinner: A metaphoric learning of psychedelics from gustatory revelations of a pillbox

Sir,

Ms. Sufentanyl, a charming “China girl,” and Ms. Mescaline, the cute Mexican lady, were invited by Mr. Marijuana at a dinner in “Chinese restaurant” in an “angel dusty” evening. Ms. Mescaline felt “ecstatic” and “Echo de la pensee” and on the occasion she “DRESS’ed herself with “heavenly blue” flock and adorned her eyes with mascara of “belladonna.” Ms. Sufentanyl wore a necklace with “serotonin pendant” and braided “rosemary” flowers into her hair. At the gate, they were greeted by Mr. Marijuana who offered them flowers of “vinca” and “foxtglove.” He was dressed in a “magic mint” suit which was ingrained with “dolphins” and had a “silver-stick” in his left hand. They sat around a corner table made of “willow bark.” The table displayed thimbles, hour-glasses, spatulae, and dinner-forks made of “heart-wood.” The “grapefruit juice” was served as welcome drink which Ms. Mescaline relished. Ms. Sufentanyl preferred “candy” and “cinnamon water,” which the waiter brought in a carafe of ice water with a cinnamon stick inside. While he indulged in “(lytic) cocktail” served in a goblet from the thimble. The drinks were toasted for ladies health!

“You look so gorgeous with long, glossier and silken hair,” Ms. Mescaline admired Ms. Sufentanyl.

“Thanks,” I use “chamomile” and “silicon-serum,” she confided and asked Ms. Mescaline “Your skin is so soft and extraordinarily lustrous.”

“It’s because I use ‘spermaceti wax’ to nourish it,” Ms. Mescaline replied.

Both ladies then turned toward Mr. Marijuana and asked about his family. He told that they were three brothers - Bhang, Hashish (popularly nicknamed as Charas) and Ganja and one genetic sister “Sinsemilla.” They originated from Himalayan valley and worked in a smoke factory where “joints,” “nails,” “pipes,” and “bongs” were manufactured and their clan was popular among college going students who relished their company (smoke) to feel “High.” Sister Sinsemilla was endowed with powers of “celestine prophecy.” He bragged that there was a long list of famous world leaders who promoted their (cannabis) culture and use. In addition, a coffee-table book called “Sinsemilla Marijuana Flowers,” written by Jim Richardson and Arik Woods, has resulted in widespread dissemination of their use across globe. He boastfully invited ladies to meet his kins to have an exotic experience with a “bubblegum!” He also informed that Sinsemilla had two sons named “nabilone” and “dronabinol” who were doing great social service by alleviating suffering of patients with cancers (reducing vomiting due to anticancer drugs). He confided that dronabinol had curious powers to boost appetite in anorexia as well!

Ms. Sufentanyl told that she belonged to a well-known clan of opioid family.

“I presume you are related to morphine?” asked Mescaline.

“Yes, I am the younger sister of Fentanyl,” Sufentanyl said.

Ms. Mescaline then asked Marijuana, “Have you ever come across any member of opiate family?”

“I am afraid, no,” said Marijuana. “It will be my pleasure to meet them”

“Among the remedies which have pleased almighty God to give to man to relieve his suffering, none is so universal and as efficacious as opium. Furthermore, closer cousins of opium, ‘paregoric,’ and ‘laudanum,’ have remained man’s best friends in need since antiquity,” Ms. Sufentanyl elaborated further.
“Well, that is great,” exclaimed Mr. Marijuana.

Ms. Mescaline informed that her family originated from Mexico and they were “shamans” who imparted sacraments in psychedelic meditation.

Mr. Marijuana asked her, “I know madam Muscimol of ‘fly agaric amanita’ family. Are you related to her?”

“You appear to have quite bit knowledge about mushrooms,” said Marijuana and he appeared to be quite impressed by Ms. Mescaline.

Meanwhile, dinner was served. All enjoyed “Ayahuasca Brew.” Mr. Marijuana having voracious appetite relished butterscotch muffins, Kerala fish curry, “red-yeast rice,”

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**Letter to Editor**

DRESS syndrome stands for Drug Reaction (or Rash) with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms. It is caused by it contains flavonoids and dihydroxybergamottin, which inhibit CYP3A4 and results in adverse drug interactions.

Tincture of opium contains higher amount of morphine (10 mg/mL).

Liquid hair tonics (anti hair fall) contain silicon compounds along with other ingredients. Silicon coats the strands to make them appear sleeker, more polished and hair looks shiny and soft.

**Table:**

| Name                        | Details                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| China girl                  | Street name of fentanyl. Sufentanyl is a derivative of fentanyl        |
| Mescaline                   | A hallucinogen obtained from a small, spineless cactus Peyote (Lophophora williamsii). Its tops (crowns) are chewed      |
| Chinese restaurant syndrome | Chinese food lavished with MSG (MSG-arterial dilator) when eaten causes throbbing headache, dizziness, tightness of the jaw, burning or tingling sensations over parts of the body, chest, and back pains |
| Angel dust                  | Street name for phencyclidine-A hallucinogen                             |
| Ecstasy (MDMA)              | A psychoactive drug chemically similar to methamphetamine and mescaline. Street names for MDMA are Ecstasy, Adam, XTC, hug drug, beans, and love drug |
| Echo de la pensee           | A phenomenon where a patient hears voices which echo thoughts just after they have occurred to the patient. This symptom occurs in schizophrenia and with psychedelic drug use |
| DRESS syndrome              | DRESS syndrome stands for Drug Reaction (or Rash) with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms. It is caused by phenobarbital, carbamazepine, phenytoin, lamotrigine, minocycline, sulfonamides, allopurinol, modafinil, dapsone, and ziprasidone |
| Heavenly blue               | Morning glory seeds have lysergamides which have hallucinogenic effects |
| Belladona (pretty lady)     | In old time venetian beauties instilled belladonna extract to impart them luster due to dilatation of pupils |
| Serotonin pendants          | Serotonin is considered “happiness molecule.” The serotonin pendant is worn with the belief that it will keep her happy |
| Rosemary flowers and leaves | Greek students would braid rosemary into their hair to help them with their examinations. Also known as the herb of remembrance |
| Vinca rosea                 | Source of vinca alkaloids-vincristine and vinblastine                   |
| Fox-glove                   | Digitalis purpurea-a source of digitalis (cardiac glycoside)            |
| Magic mint                  | Salvia divinorum-also known as magic mint-is a psychoactive plant common to southern Mexico and Central and South America. Salvia is typically ingested by chewing fresh leaves or by drinking their extracted juices |
| Dolphin                     | Other name for ecstasy or PCP                                          |
| Silver nitrate stick        | It is used to remove warts and for cauterization of trachoma follicles |
| Willow bark (Salix alba)    | A source for aspirin                                                   |
| Heartwood (Pterocarpus marsupium) | Heartwood of Pterocarpus marsupium has potential antidiabetic activity |
| Grapefruit juice            | It contains flavonoids and dihydroxybergamottin, which inhibit CYP3A4 and results in adverse drug interactions |
| Candy                       | Street name for Crack-cocaine                                          |
| Cinnamon water              | “Rock candy of marijuana”                                              |
| Lyric cocktail              | A combination of chlorpromazine, pethidine and promethazine is called as lyric cocktail and was commonly used to induce analgesia in terminally ill cancer patients and for blood pressure control in eclampsia |
| Chamomile                   | Chamomile soothes the spirits. It attracts prosperity and love, and the tiny flowers are enjoyed as cosmetics |
| Silicon serum               | Liquid hair tonics (anti hair fall) contain silicon compounds along with other ingredients. Silicon coats the strands to make them appear sleeker, more polished and hair looks shiny and soft |
| Spermaceti Wax              | It is obtained from the head of a sperm whale or bottlenose whale. Spermaceti was used chiefly in ointments, cosmetic creams, fine wax candles, pomades, and textile finishing. The substance was named in belief that it was the coagulated semen of the whale |
| Sinsemilla                  | A higher potency genetic variety of marijuana contains only the leaves and buds of the unpollinated female cannabis plant, where THC is most concentrated |
| Joints, nails, pipes and bongs | Conduits with which marijuana is smoked for hilarious effects            |
| Celestine prophecy          | A famous book by James Redfield denoting that the world is emerging into a new spiritual awareness. First-time users of mescaline and psilocybin, have a similar “mysical experience” characterized by unity with all things, transcendence of time and space, a sense of insight into the ultimate nature of reality, and feelings of ineffability, awe, and profound positive emotions such as joy, peace, and love |
| Bubblegum                  | Cannabis bubblegums have characteristic fruity smell, sweet taste and euphoriant effect |
| Paregoric                   | Camphorated tincture of opium, (0.4 mg/mL morphine) was used to control diarrhea in adults and children, as an expectorant and cough medicine, to calm fretful children, and as a rub on the gums to counteract the pain from teething |
| Laudanum                    | Tincture of opium contains higher amount of morphine (10 mg/mL)          |

Contd...
Ganja consists of dried leaves and flowers with THC content of 1‑5%. Resin is called as hashish or charas.

Ziconotide is a synthetic version of the conopeptide found in venom of the marine snail Conus magus.

Red wine contains antioxidant polyphenols (resveratrol) which help protect heart and blood vessels by increasing HDL and decreasing LDL cholisters.

Salmon fish
Salmon calcitonin is extracted from ultimobranchial glands of salmon fish.

Maitake mushroom
Maitake mushrooms extracts have shown to be adaptogen and increases activity of immune cells and have antitumor activity.

Soy
Rich in isoflavones (phytoestrogens).

Turkey berry
Solanum torvum berries are used in southern India as a soup which digestive and treats anemia.

Cannabis preparations
Ganja consists of dried leaves and flowers with THC content of 1‑5%. Resin is called as hashish or charas.

Ginger-ale
A ginger flavored carbonated drink useful as digestive and carminative.

Conus snails
Ziconotide is a synthetic version of the conopeptide found in venom of the marine snail Conus magus.

Dou‑quai
A Chinese aphrodisiac for women.

Bath salts
The crystals of illicit bath salts resemble those of Epsom salt (used as bath-salt), so are erroneously coined as bath salts. Bath salt contains CNS stimulants such as MDPV which inhibits the monoamine reuptake in brain neurones.

Cranberry
Proanthocyanidins of cranberry are potent antioxidants that decrease bacterial adherence to the bladder epithelium.

Therefore, cranberry juice is useful in urinary tract infection.

Milk thistle tea (Silybum marianum)
The milk thistle contains hepatoprotective silymarin isoflavonoids.

Texas tea
A concoction made by combining prescription-strength cough syrup containing promethazine/codeine and soft drinks like Sprite or Mountain Dew.

Datura stramonium (devil’s weed/divine stramonium)
A deadly nightshade plant used since ancient times to communicate with the spiritual world, as it produces visions having spiritual revelations and psychedelic effects (visual and auditory hallucinations).

HDL and decreasing LDL cholesterols
Cardio-protective effect

“yohimbe,” cinnamon raisin bites, whole kernel rye bread, “oyster meat,” and salad dressed with ginger and grated garlic. He preferred “red wine” with meals. Ms. Mescaline preferred “salmon fish curry,” mint julep, “Maitake mushroom,” asparagus dressed with “soy” sauce and lemon zest, and “turkey berry” with “ginger-ale.” Ms. Sufentanyl enjoyed “snails” curry, “dong-quai,” chicken soup simmered with bones, cod-liver cubes sprinkled with bath-salts and multigrain methi-mathiya. This was followed by “cranberry” ambrosia dessert, which all liked.

Satiated, they sat in a café-lounge and both the ladies gossiped over “milk-thistle tea.” Mr. Marijuana preferred “texas-tea.” He offered “stramonium cigarettes” to ladies which they gleefully accepted for a hilarious experience. On departure, both ladies thanked Mr. Marijuana for such a sumptuous dinner. Ms. Mescaline invited them for lunch at psychedelic restaurant on Saturday.[1‑5]

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There are no conflicts of interest.

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The available literature on the interaction between psychotropic drugs and warfarin indicates that some drugs such as trazodone and carbamazepine have long been known to lower the levels of warfarin. More recently, bupropion too has been reported to seriously decrease the activity of warfarin.

Of the interactions between psychotropic drugs and warfarin that have been reported, very few are “definite” interactions; the rest are reported as “could possibly be implicated,” as they were used along with drugs known to cause hemorrhage when used with warfarin.

This is the second case of quetiapine reported to cause bleeding, in a patient, on a stable regimen of warfarin. CYP2C9 and CYP1A2 are known to be the major pathways of metabolism of warfarin S and R enantiomer, respectively. CYP3A4 and CYP2C19 are minor pathways of the far less potent R-enantiomer of warfarin.

Quetiapine–warfarin reaction occurred, though quetiapine does not have any action on the major pathways mentioned; except in vitro, where CYP 2C9 has been shown to cause this, but not in vivo. CYP3A4 is the only enzyme responsible for the biotransformation of quetiapine, and therefore, inhibition of CYP3A4, a minor pathway, was the cause of the quetiapine–warfarin reaction in both cases.

In the previous reported case, the INR was 3.4 when the bleeding occurred. In this case, the INR was 3.2 when the bleeding occurred. The INR was considerably lower than the levels that generally cause bleeding, in both the cases. The possible reason could be that, in both cases, there were risk factors for hemorrhage; age above 70 years, female sex, and the presence of hypertension.

Though the interactions between psychotropic drugs and warfarin leading to hemorrhage are not many in literature, this case indicates that caution is warranted while combining them. A life-threatening drug interaction, as a result of increased INR with hemorrhage, is known to occur.

Sir,

Psychotropic drugs have been reported to have a drug–drug interaction with warfarin, raising the international normalizing ratio (INR), with a potential to develop hemorrhage.

We report a rare case of warfarin–quetiapine interaction causing gastrointestinal hemorrhage. Extensive review of literature has revealed only one such case, hitherto.

A 72-year-old female patient developed deep vein thrombosis, 6 months back. She had hypertension since the age of 40 years, for which she was on regular treatment. She was started on warfarin, and in about 3 weeks, her INR readings ranged from 2 to 3, which was the desired range. A month later, she developed sleep disturbance, restlessness, and occasional visual hallucinations at night, for which, quetiapine was started in a dose of 25 mg, given at bedtime. These symptoms subsided within a week. About 1 week later, she complained of passing blood stained stools. Detailed evaluations including upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and colonoscopy were normal. The stool analysis showed plenty of red blood corpuscles, with no other significant finding. Quetiapine–warfarin interaction causing gastrointestinal hemorrhage was made. The INR had risen to 3.2 at this point of time. Quetiapine was immediately stopped and warfarin was continued. There was no bleeding after 3 days, at which time the INR was 2.2 and was within the desired range. She received warfarin for the next 2 months, and when Doppler studies showed no clot and the blood flow was normal, warfarin was tapered and stopped; 10 days after this, the INR was 1.2 which is normal.

Warfarin is metabolized in the liver and is highly protein bound, therefore, increasing the risk of drug interactions, particularly hemorrhagic adverse events, which is further increased by the fact that it has a low therapeutic index.

While the interaction of warfarin with many drugs is well studied, there is, in comparison, insufficient research of its interaction with psychotropic drugs.

Warfarin–quetiapine interaction causing hemorrhage.