ISAM 2026 / ROTTERDAM

Kamini use in Canada: an emerging substance of concern

Opioid dependence and possible lead toxicity from a traditional product

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CLINICAL MESSAGE

Kamini Vidrawan Ras may contain opium-derived alkaloids. Ask about it specifically when assessing unexplained opioid withdrawal.

Why it matters

Opioid exposure. Published cases describe tolerance, dependence and clinically important withdrawal after repeated Kamini use.

Product variation. Ingredients, opioid content and contaminants can differ between products and batches.

Canadian case signal. A 2023 conference abstract described opioid withdrawal after Kamini purchased in Canada. This does not establish prevalence.

Evidence from case series

Australia. A series identified 12 patients seeking opioid treatment after Kamini use.

Treatment. Case reports describe stabilization with buprenorphine or methadone, following usual OUD care principles.

Lead. A separate three-patient case series reported severe lead toxicity and found lead in the tested product.

Clinical assessment

Ask directly. Use the name Kamini or Kamini Vidrawan Ras. Record source, dose, frequency, last use and any interruption.

Assess withdrawal. Evaluate OUD, sedation, other substance use and overdose risk.

Consider lead testing. Abdominal pain, weakness or unexplained anemia in a person using Kamini warrants a CBC and consideration of blood lead testing.

Care and prevention

Treat OUD. Offer opioid agonist treatment using local protocols, with naloxone and harm reduction counselling.

Monitor toxicity. Follow withdrawal and sedation. Seek toxicology input for suspected lead exposure.

Address driving. Ask about operating vehicles or machinery and counsel about possible impairment.

Improve surveillance. Document the product and consider reporting unusual cases to poison control or public health.

PRACTICE IMPLICATION

Ask about Kamini by name. Manage opioid dependence with established OUD care, and investigate lead exposure when symptoms or blood counts raise concern.

TEAM AND AFFILIATIONS

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SELECTED REFERENCES

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