

Fake Urine for Defeating Drug Test Results

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Abstract: Illicit drug abuse is a serious public health issue in the USA. According to CDC more than 70,000 people had died from drug overdose in 2017 year. The death from cocaine and powerful synthetic opioids had increased about 113 percent each year since 2013 to 2016 across the United States. Drug overdose is currently the leading cause of death in the USA among people below age 50 during last five years. Despite expanding efforts to curb the drug abused or misused, the drug overdose death rates continue to rise. We have to do more to address this substance abuse and drug addiction in the United States. Drug users want to hide the substance abuse that would be revealed by their urine testing and, therefore, they are motivated to cheat and defeat drug screen process. Usage of synthetic urine or “fake urine” recently became very popular and common method for drug abusers to escape failing urine drug test. Health and Human Services (HHS) -certified laboratories lately observed significantly increased total numbers of invalid urine drug test results due to manipulations with synthetic (fake) urine by donors. Sale of synthetic urine is currently legal in most US states and appears to be on the rise now. Artificial urine is sophisticated fluid which is designed to cheat all aspects of drug testing process including validity. Banning synthetic urine to use and sale is very important step for reducing manipulations on drug testing system and preventing illicit drug abuse. But most important, it will help drug abusers to receive medical attention, treatment and crucial support. Artificial urine needs to be eliminated from the market. It is beneficial to diversify drug testing program and perform not only urine drug testing but oral fluid or hair analysis for some pre-employment drug testing plan.

Keywords: Synthetic (Fake) Urine, Urine Drug Test, Illicit Drugs

1. Introduction

Illicit drug abuse is a serious public health issue in the USA. The drug addiction and overdose epidemic is receiving growing attention in our country. Drug overdose is currently the leading cause of death in the USA among people below age 50 during last five years [1] According to CDC more than 70,000 people had died from drug overdose in 2017 year [2].

In 2016, there were about 12 million people, who stated misusing opioids (heroin or prescription pain medication) in the past year. Moreover, almost one million of teenagers report that they misuse opioids in past year and many teenagers are addicted to them. Despite expanding efforts to curb the drug abused or misused, the drug overdose death rates continue to rise. We have to do more to address this substance abuse and drug addiction in the United States [1].

Drug users want to hide the substance abuse that would be revealed by their urine testing and, therefore, they are motivated to cheat and defeat drug screen process.

2. Case Report

23 year old male came for pre-employment non-DOT urine drug test. He appeared highly nervous and anxious. Before providing urine sample collector asked him to remove everything from his pockets and requested to lift t-shirt to see his waist. Reluctantly he lifted t-shirt and collector noticed suspicious “fabric belt” around his waist (see figures 1 and 2). Donor was required to remove his “fabric belt” and place it in the empty trash can. After the removal of this “fabric belt,” he provided own urine and left clinic.

This “fabric belt” was retrieved and photos were taken. Please, see figure 1 and figure 2. An artificial rubber penis

connected to small plastic bag with synthetic urine was attached to this “fabric belt”. The plastic bag had been equipped with temperature sensor and the fake urine warm by palpation.

The drug result came positive for Marijuana.

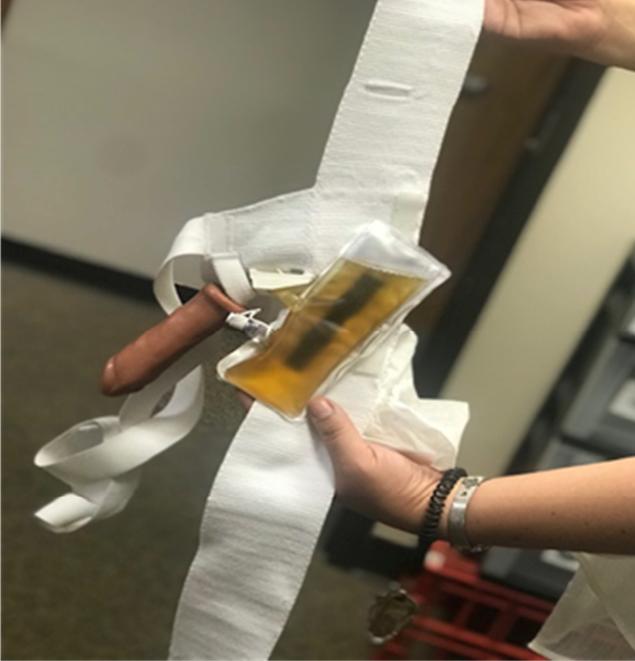


Figure 1. “Fabric belt” with attached artificial penis and plastic bag for urine.



Figure 2. Small plastic bag with fake urine connected to rubber penis.

3. Discussion

Currently more companies and corporations request their prospective employees or current employees to take urine drug test. With legalization of marijuana in many states it is became more common that young workers use marijuana or other recreational drugs. Illicit drug abuse is a serious public health issue in the USA. According to recent National Survey on Drug Abuse it is estimated that about 25 million Americans are illicit drug users. Marijuana is the most

commonly abused illicit drug, followed by cocaine, heroin and hallucinogens [2].

Moreover, data from the National Center for Health Statistics show that death from cocaine and powerful synthetic opioids had increased about 113 percent each year since 2013 to 2016 across the United States. According to CDC more than 70,000 people had died from drug overdose in 2017 year [3].

Predictably, with very important consequences of urine drug test result, drug users want to hide substance abuse that would be revealed by their urine testing. Therefore, they are motivated and creative to defeat this drug screen process. It is well known, that urine validity tests consist of taking temperature at the time collection, the range of creatinine, specific gravity and PH. Also, urine biomarkers analysis may be performed to determine if synthetic urine used for substitution of real urine sample. [4-5]

Typically people attempt to cheat and defeat urine drug testing by three different methods: substitution own urine with synthetic urine, drinking a lot of special products (Absolute detox drink, Ready clean drink etc.) to flush out drugs from the body and adding adulterant (acid, bleach, vinegar etc.) to the urine after specimen collection. Recently HHS-certified laboratories observed significantly increased total numbers of invalid urine drug test results due to manipulations with synthetic (fake) urine by donors [6].

Unfortunately, usage of synthetic urine or “fake urine” became very popular and common method for drug abusers to escape failing urine drug test. Synthetic urine is similar to human urine in physical, chemical and thermal properties. People can buy synthetic urine in stores, truck stops or on line. Fake urine is available as “Clean Stream”, “Quick Fix”, “Ultra-Pure”, “UPass” and other products. Usually these products are sold as pre-mixed kits, which need to correctly mix with water and heat for imitation of real human urine. These artificial urine products have different ingredients, different cost and different success rates [7-8].

In addition, Amazon is selling Leg Strap Neoprene Belt with hidden pocket for “fake pee bottle”. This belt is advertised on Amazon’s website as easy to use, anti-slip designed and one size fits all. But most important, that this belt has a “secret hiding place” for synthetic urine and cost only \$ 29.95 for prime members. Customers had reviewed this product as “excellent” and gave the belt 5 stars for satisfaction. Moreover, some women using the bra as a “secret hiding place” for defeating drug test.

Synthetic urine is available in USA and designed to cheat all aspects of process of urine drug testing including validity testing. This fake urine is sophisticated fluid which contains the physiological levels of creatinine, specific gravity and PH. Therefore, many laboratories are searching for new methods and new endogenous markers to distinguish real human urine from synthetic urine. Recently liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS-MS) method had been developed to propose new markers of validity for identification artificial urine submitted for drug testing [4, 9-10].

Unfortunately, sale of synthetic urine is legal in the most US states and appears to be on the rise now. Therefore, this problem has attracted attention of lawmakers in the state of Mississippi. They proposed a bill known as “Urine Trouble Act” to ban synthetic urine and address related issues of safety-sensitive employees [7-8].

It is obvious that prohibition and outlaw of synthetic (fake) urine on the market will decrease cheating in drug testing, preventing drug abuse and eliminate unnecessary searching by Labs for new approach to distinguish real urine from fake [4, 9]. But most important, it will help drug abusers to receive medical attention, treatment and crucial support.

Also, one of the best approaches to battle the usage of synthetic (fake) urine and deter cheaters is to expand and diversify drug testing program. Hairs have the longest window of drug detection of all specimens, potentially measuring the usage of drug for more than several months. Moreover, it is beneficial to perform drug testing with observed collection such as oral fluid evaluation and hair analysis. It will help to reduce the chance and probability that testing specimens will be substituted or adulterated [11].

4. Conclusion

Sale of synthetic urine is currently legal in most US states and appears to be on the rise now. Banning synthetic urine to use and sale is very important step for reducing manipulations on drug testing process and preventing illicit drug abuse. Artificial urine needs to be eliminated from the market. It is beneficial to diversify drug testing program and perform not only urine drug testing but oral fluid or hair analysis for some pre-employment drug testing plan.

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