

## Mephedrone

### **What is Mephedrone?**

Mephedrone is a drug, also known as 4-methylephedrone. Mephedrone also contains a lot of slang names such as meph, drone, Mc, meow meow and so on. It is a drug that can be found in forms as tablets or powder that can be swallowed, snorted or injected. Mephedrone was discovered in 1929, but wasn't known widely until it was rediscovered in 2003. In 2007 and 2008, the drug began to get sold in whole Europe. The drug was at the beginning considered illegal and was considered like ecstasy. It was then made legal in the major countries of Europe, by changing the drug and removing the roughest things about it. Some then kept it illegal after having some accidents, while some countries as the UK kept it legal. In year 2009, the use of mephedrone was increased rapidly in the UK. Mephedrone is primary used by clubbers and schoolchildren. It is easily found at music festivals and parties. Meph has become so popular that it was found as the fourth most popular street drug in the United Kingdom. The drug's rapid growth in popularity is believed to be related to both its availability and legality. Mephedrone is compared to cocaine and ecstasy legal in the UK, which makes it a lot more popular. The media has also lead to the increasingly usage of the drug. Before when it was illegally, it was unknown and unfamiliar by the people. Therefore the media is also a cause in the growing usage, by making this known and popular.

### **Give an account of what is said by the user; the mother; the dealer; the doctor.**

4 people are interviewed about their opinions about drugs and Mephedrone, which gives us 4 different aspects on this topic.

#### **The user: Jack Starks**

Jack talks about when he first started using 'meow meow'. He introduces a typical situation, which could happen in every party. He start talking about how Brandon shows his other mates this new drug and how they all, of course, are curious to try it out.

Jack tells about his experiences with Mephedrone, and how you can consume this drug either by snorting, dropping it into “bombs” (which means; rolling papers filled with Meph) and then there are those who eat it. We get to know about how it is to consume this sort of plant food, and how it affects the human body. Of course, the more you consume, the more it takes to make you high to the maximum stage. Brandon also tells us, how the situation is between the students, and how he starts making business by importing Mephedrone from China for 1 £ and then selling it to other students at 15 £. Other people started doing same, and therefore you could not set a foot in a club or house-party without someone walking past offering you “drone”.

We get to hear about an accident that happens one day. Brandon forgets his spoon in a bag full of Mephedrone, and after three days later, the spoon was stripped off the outer coating. I wonder how that feels within the body. We do hear about a single damage that this drug has caused. That was to Brandon’s friend, which had permanently damaged his lungs. He was then forced to use an inhaler since, but is still addictive.

### **The mother: Sophie Radice**

We get to consider Sophie as a worry mother, so we also hear it from an aspect that is totally against these drugs. Her message to the other mothers is that they should be sure that their child does not have any contact with drugs such as Mephedrone. Sophie has by herself heard about this stuff from another mother from north London whose son had ordered this “plant food”. Then she has also spoken with her daughter that told her about her friends’ reactions after consuming Mephedrone. Her daughter described them as “talking rubbish as if it is the most interesting thing in the world, and that they dribble and lick their lips and gurn and grind their teeth”. She also says that people shook, bit holes in their lips and cheeks, were unable to feel their legs, and were frightened because their heart was beating too fast and that their skin looked grey.

We do hear about her suggestions to solve or what that could be done to prevent this increasingly usage. On intellectual level, she agrees with Professor David Nut’s suggestion of creating a class of D drug category. Within this category, sales would be limited to over-18’s. The product would be quality-controlled and the doses would be limited to safe levels. There would not be any overprice taken, and there would be health education messages, just like on the cigarettes nowadays around in Europe. But on a more visceral and instinctive level, she is against that they should wait and see how harmful and damaging this drug is to people, and therefore it does not comfort her. Since they

can buy on the internet for example, she does not think that it would be secure enough even with the over-18 rule, because she thinks that it would be like a porn site with a simple question, which asks you to click a button to say that you are over 18. And that is the only proof you need. For the group of younger people, making Mephedrone a class B drug would at least prevent them from buying this, and they would have it much harder to buy the drug.

**The dealer: Mark**

Mark tells his story as a Mephedrone dealer that actually has not consumed any drug except a single joint in college. He is owner of several shops selling drugs on the internet. He is a typical example that starts running this business legally, but then gets tired of the requirements by paying taxes, giving excellent service with a quality product at the right price. After that you start selling illegally under your own terms. He started buying from UK, but then found it even cheaper from the China, and started buying it directly imported from there. He then starts a website on the internet, and already at his first week, he turns in over 8.000 £, and at the second week 10.000 £. But then someday an accident happens and a 14-year old girl dies, and Mephedrone is blamed. Mark was surprised because that the sale was then doubled, because when Mephedrone is in the news, the demand increases rapidly. Another accident is the death of 2 boys. Mephedrone is blamed again. One of Mark's websites, who is used to get 1,200 hits a day, now received more than 20,000. He clearly points out that the media is the cause that Mephedrone is so popular and widespread in UK. Mark also points out that the day Mephedrone is banned, the taxman will lose hundreds of thousands of pounds and the criminals will step in. Millions have used mephedrone in the UK. If they are stopped from getting it legally, they will either buy it illegally or even try something new.

**The doctor: James Bell**

James Bell is an addictions consultant, and therefore knows a lot of drugs and especially GBL. GBL is also a kind of drug that is used a lot at parties. The doctor tells us about a person he meets at his clinic. This guy had come because that he had become dependent by drugs.

The doctor does primary tell the reader facts about Mephedrone and about the consequences by consuming Mephedrone and GBL, and what affects it has on our bodies. For example, they both

reduce confidence and sociability and also reduce sexual inhibitions. Repeating doses of these drugs does decrease pleasure and increase paranoia and irritability.

**Discuss whether or not drugs are a problem among your friends.**

It is a bit difficult to discuss this topic, when you live in Denmark, because in Denmark, many of our drugs are made illegal and are not widespread compared to the drugs in UK. The most spread drug in Denmark is hash, which is used by the major drug users. But in Denmark, I would say that our problem is the drinking. We do drink a lot more than UK and other countries in Europe. And therefore I could talk about whether alcohol is a problem or not among my friends. It is hard to say as a young student. But the problem is actually even bigger than the drugs. My friends does drink a lot alcohol and from a young age. We made a statistic for not long time ago in the class about from how young an age we drank our first alcoholic drink. And the average was about 13-14 years. There were some that did even answer from the age of 12 years. That is too much according to opinion. Our bodies suffer too much damage, and especially our livers are dying slowly. Most of us will become ill before that we grow old. Some might even become alcoholics and ruin their lives. Drugs make you addicted, but so does alcohol. I do not feel a big problem within my friends. So far, I do not know someone addicted to drugs. But I do know many that smoke these “bombs” (joint), which is hash in a rolled paper. So my conclusion is that I do not really see a big problem in drugs within my friends or the people I know, but my opinion is that alcohol is a lot larger problem. The usage of alcohol is increasing rapidly, and children are beginning to start drinking from a very young age. We do in Denmark got alcoholics that have not reached the age above 15. These people’s future are unhealthy, economically a disaster and therefore they will easily get lost.