

# Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists (SCRAs)

## “Spice” and Cannabis Concentrates

### Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists (SCRAs) “Spice”

These synthetic chemical compounds are manufactured to mimic the effects of some of the compounds that occur naturally within cannabis. Some of these compounds are several hundred times stronger than traditional cannabis and consequently dosage is much smaller, compounds go further and there’s a far greater risk of overdose, short and long term health conditions.

Synthetic Cannabinoids are produced in a liquid form but can then be added to a number of different carriers. Commonly we see them added to herbal substances so they look like natural herbal Cannabis, sprayed on to paper which is then eaten or added to vape liquids. They’re often marketed in the same way other drugs are but are also seen in professional manufactured packaging with catchy brands, names and logos. Some of these products are named after the chemicals compounds (e.g. Jwh-18, K2) whilst other are given catchy names to be more appealing e.g “Scooby Snax” or “Trippy”.

We are starting to see SCRA’s being added to vapes. The benefit of this would be it’s a clear liquid which is difficult to identify. Due to its high purity only a small amount is needed to give an effect many times greater than Cannabis. It doesn’t smell like a Cannabis Joint and there is a lack of knowledge and awareness of these drugs by none users (schools, collages, parents)

Although there is little know about the long term effects of Synthetic Cannabis, research has shown an increased risk of physical and mental health issues. This is why many of the ingredients used in the production of this drugs are now controlled under the **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971** (Class B).



### Cannabis Concentrates

We are starting to see Cannabis being produced/converted into products known collectively as Cannabis Concentrates. These concentrated products are produced in many forms with

names reflecting their appearance or production methods, for example “Butane Honey Oil”, “Shatter”, “Vapours” and “Wax”.

Basically these concentrates are cannabis derived extracts that contain high levels of the psychoactive drug found in Cannabis THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol). Normal “flowering head” cannabis may have a THC content averaging between 10% - 25%. These concentrates are averaging between 60% and 80%. It is believed that these concentrates are becoming more popular for a number of reasons. Reasons including higher strength, more effective, faster acting, better flavour and ability to Vape are all quoted by users.

Originally this extraction has been crude and primitive, however through developments in technology, scientific and chemical development, concentrate extraction has become a highly sophisticated and modernised practice in which lab-grade equipment can be utilized.

Cannabis concentrates are consumed in a number of different ways. Whilst some methods are more effective than others, it’s generally down to personal choice and forms of concentrates available at the time.

