

Director, Scheduling Project Management
Regulatory Engagement and Planning Branch
Regulatory Practice and Support Division
Therapeutic Goods Administration
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Re: Consultation: Regulatory options for appropriate access and safety controls for alkyl nitrites

I [REDACTED] am writing in response to the banning of alkyl nitrites. This response has been devised based on my personal use of this relaxant. On hearing of the proposed banning of alkyl nitrates (poppers), it has caused me a great deal of distress and anxiety as not having access to it will cause a lot of pain and discomfort for me during receptive anal sex.

Directly addressing a few of the sub-sections of S52E:

- (a) the risks and benefits of use of the substance;**
- (b) the purposes for which the substance is used, and the extent of use**

I solely play the receptive role during male to male sexual intercourse with my partners, am 37 years old and have been using 'poppers' (alkyl nitrates) for 19 years. My first few experiences of receptive anal sex were very painful and caused a lot of bleeding to occur for the next few days from the anal region. On many occasions I needed to use suppositories for the days to follow anal sex to assist with the bleeding and pain caused. On some occasions anal penetration caused haemorrhoids for up to two weeks which was very painful and distressing. On those occasions where I had access to 'poppers', the negative effects mentioned during penetration were not seen. Having a quick inhalation of 'poppers' once just before my partner penetrated allowed me to relax preventing pain, bleeding and haemorrhoids to occur for the days to follow. 'Poppers' (alkyl nitrates) also gives me peace of mind that anal sex is safe and won't cause damage which will need medical attention such as anal fissures.

The only risks I have experience have been headaches if I have inhaled too much and there has been a couple of occasions where I spilled some on my nostril and which caused some redness as I didn't have access to water to wash the area immediately.

- (e) the potential for abuse of the substance;**

I have been using 'poppers' (alkyl nitrates) for 19 years for the sole purpose of making my experience of intercourse more comfortable and as a preventative for tearing, bleeding and haemorrhoids. I don't use this substance for anything other than for the medicinal purposes I have stated. I don't see this substance as addictive as the effects are very short lived and inhaling too much causes headaches. If I have planned to have anal sex then I will try and have 'poppers' on hand to prevent the discomfort mentioned but I don't always have it on hand and just have to put up with the negative effect in the days to follow.