



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI PRESIDENT, DR. TYLER CYMET, STATEMENT ON PALCOHOL

BALTIMORE, March 26, 2015 — If something can be used, it can be abused.

And people have the right to abuse their own bodies. Once they know the risks.

Powdered alcohol, or palcohol, soon to be available under brand names like kamikaze, are packets of powder that should be mixed in a full glass of liquid. I don't think we know the effect if you eat it like candy. Or mix it with an alcoholic beverage. Or snort it. Or smoke it. Or vape it. Or bang it. Or mix it in a speedball.

With palcohol, we are in the learning phase. It is an old drug given in a new way. The potential for problems are obvious and real. The questions that should be answered and are being asked by parents who want to protect their kids, interested users, as well as healthcare professionals and the questions should be answered before the drug is sold.

So we are asking people to take a deep breath, sit down, and list the possible problems that can be easily foreseen. If research is needed, then let's do it. Once done, we can move ahead. If we know what we need to know, then let's look at the system for purchasing and using palcohol.

This is a safety issue. If you can't handle the consequences, you shouldn't be sitting down to play the game. If society is going to be paying the cost for the consequences of palcohol, then it should be included in the price of the drug-We should not introduce a new drug into society with the expectation that society will subsidize the cost of powdered alcohol.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.