

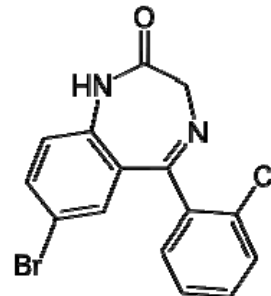
NEW "OLD" DRUG: Phenazepam (Fenazepam)

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Phenazepam was developed in Russia circa 1979 as a "new domestic tranquilizer with benzodiazepine structure". It was part of a joint venture between Odessa University and the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR. It is currently produced in Russia and other CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries for the treatment of epilepsy, alcohol withdrawal syndrome, insomnia and anxiety (esp. surgical procedures). It is structurally similar to other 1-4 benzodiazepines like diazepam, nordiazepam, lorazepam, oxazepam, and temazepam, with the addition of bromine. Phenazepam is not regulated or scheduled in the United States or UK, but is labeled a narcotic in Norway. As such, there is little information relevant to dosage, metabolism, elimination, impairment and toxicity. Recent casework revealed blood phenazepam in drivers between 380 – 500 ng/mL, with CNS impairment observed. An analytical standard was purchased from Lipomed (PHZ-904-FB).

General Information

IUPAC name:	7-bromo-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one
Common name:	Phenazepam, Fenazepam, BD98
Appearance:	White crystalline powder
Chemical formula:	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ BrClN ₂ O
Molecular weight:	349.61
CAS number:	51753-57-2
Rx dosage:	0.5 mg 2-3 times daily (10 mg daily maximum)
Recreational dose:	0.5 – 2.0 mg (online user states 1 mg phenazepam = 5 mg diazepam in effect)
Availability:	Internet sales: 100 mg – 100 Grams bulk powder



Pharmacology (limited information)

Half-life:	up to 60 hours (1 citation)
Absorption:	C _{max} reached within 4 hours of administration
Elimination:	assume hepatic metabolism via P450 enzymes
Mechanism of action:	Acts on the GABA _A receptor to produce CNS depression

Toxicology

EMIT blood screen:	Positive benzo result at ≥ 50 ng/mL (calibrator is lorazepam = 40 ng/mL)
Extraction:	Recovered by routine n-butyl chloride liquid:liquid basic drug extraction, including acid back extraction.
Detection:	Seen by GC/NPD and GC/MS. SIM Quantitation via GC/MS (flurazepam ISTD), Linearity 10 – 1000 ng/mL (quadratic). GC/NPD quantitation has not been evaluated.
Elution order:	Nordiazepam, midazolam, flurazepam, olanzapine, phenazepam , zolpidem

