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Prevalence of stimulants as doping agents in Brazil

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Abstract

The prevalence of stimulant doping agent used among Brazilian athletes is presented. The high prevalence of stimulants doping findings in Brazil can be attributed to different reasons including “self-administration” and “body-shape” cultures and use of nutritional supplements. Also recreational drugs, such as cocaine presents a relatively high prevalence compared to the international statistics. The issue of self-medication is observed for anorexic agents. They are constantly present in the doping findings reported in Brazil. The number of the cases for isometheptene in Brazil also is highlighted (78% of the cases in the world were reported by the Brazil Doping Control Laboratory). From this total, in 50% of the cases, the athletes reported the use of Neosaldina® in the appropriated doping control form. The level of disinformation about the doping control system among the participants of the Brazilian sport scenario is preoccupant. The number of cases involving over-the-counter drugs and food supplements could be understood as a reflex of a lack of “anti-doping culture”. Certainly, the lack of financial support in several sport modalities hampers the development of preventive actions such as informative campaigns. This work was presented as a contribution to the Manfred Donike Workshop.

The full considerations about the prevalence of stimulants in Brazil are described elsewhere in:
Pereira HMG, Sardela VF. (2013) Stimulant doping agents used in Brazil: Prevalence, detectability, analytical implications and challenges. Substance Use and Misuse.