



WhiteSands Alcohol & Drug Rehab Publishes New Resource on Tianeptine Risks Amid Rising Poison Center Exposures

September 24, 2026

TAMPA, FL - September 24, 2026 -

WhiteSands Alcohol & Drug Rehab has published a new educational resource examining tianeptine, an unapproved drug associated with increasing reports to U.S. poison centers and warnings from federal health regulators. The July 2026 article, "Tianeptine Dangers: What You Need to Know About Gas Station Heroin in Tampa," outlines the substance's opioid-like effects, potential for dependence and withdrawal, and circumstances in which medical evaluation or addiction treatment may be appropriate.

The publication follows documented increases in tianeptine exposures reported to U.S. poison centers. A peer-reviewed study published in the Journal of Medical Toxicology analyzed 892 single-substance tianeptine exposures reported to the National Poison Data System from 2015 through 2023. Researchers found that the population-based exposure rate increased 1,400% during the study period. Approximately 51.5% of reported cases involved moderate medical effects, 12% involved major effects, and 40.1% resulted in medical admission.

The researchers cautioned that poison-center data have important limitations. Reports made to poison centers do not represent every tianeptine exposure, use, poisoning, or adverse event occurring in the United States, and the study was limited to reported single-substance exposures. The findings nevertheless document a substantial increase in reports involving the drug during the nine-year study period.

Tianeptine has also been the subject of repeated warnings from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA states that tianeptine is not approved for any medical use in the United States and has advised consumers not to purchase or use products containing it because of serious health risks. According to the agency, reported adverse events have included seizures, loss of consciousness, hospitalization, and death. The FDA also reports that tianeptine products have been found through online retailers, convenience stores, gas stations, and vape shops.

The term “gas station heroin,” which appears in the WhiteSands resource title and has also been used by the FDA when discussing the product trend, reflects tianeptine’s opioid-receptor activity and retail availability. It is a colloquial description rather than a medical classification. The WhiteSands resource provides additional context about how tianeptine differs from approved medications and why easy retail availability should not be interpreted as evidence that a product is safe or federally approved.

Florida has taken separate regulatory action. Senate Bill 1512 added tianeptine to the state’s Schedule I controlled substances list, with the provision taking effect July 1, 2024. The Florida Senate’s bill summary states that Schedule I substances are classified as having a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.

Against that regulatory and public-health background, the newly published WhiteSands article discusses dependence, withdrawal, and the importance of appropriate clinical assessment. Tianeptine has been used as a prescription medication in some other countries, but the FDA emphasizes that it is not an approved drug in the United States. The agency also states that tianeptine does not meet the statutory definition of a dietary ingredient and is considered an unsafe food additive when used in products marketed as dietary supplements.

WhiteSands Alcohol & Drug Rehab Tampa publishes information about treatment for alcohol, opioids, prescription medications, stimulants, and other substance use disorders. Its Tampa-area treatment resources describe multiple levels of care, including medically supervised detoxification and residential treatment at designated locations, as well as structured outpatient programming. Clinical services may incorporate behavioral therapy, mental health support, medication-assisted treatment when appropriate, relapse-prevention planning, and continuing care.

The new tianeptine resource is intended for patients and families throughout the greater Tampa area, including Westchase, Citrus Park, Northdale, Carrollwood, Carrollwood Village, Tampa Palms, New Tampa, Hunter's Green, and Cory Lake Isles. Residents of these communities seeking information about substance use treatment can use the resource to better understand how tianeptine dependence and withdrawal may require professional assessment rather than attempting to manage significant symptoms without medical guidance.

For people researching drug rehab near me in the Tampa area, the article also provides context for understanding why treatment recommendations can differ from one patient to another. Factors such as the substance involved, severity of use, withdrawal risk, physical health, mental health conditions, previous treatment history, and home environment can influence whether a clinician recommends detoxification, residential care, or outpatient treatment.

The publication expands WhiteSands' patient education materials at a time when federal regulators, state lawmakers, and medical researchers have continued to document concerns involving tianeptine. By bringing together information on FDA warnings, Florida's controlled-substance classification, withdrawal concerns, and available addiction-treatment pathways, the resource provides Tampa-area patients and families with a current reference for evaluating the risks associated with tianeptine and determining when professional care may be warranted.

###

For more information about WhiteSands Alcohol & Drug Rehab Tampa Gunn HWY, contact the company here: WhiteSands Alcohol & Drug Rehab Tampa Gunn HWY Ryan Monesson (813) 285-5113 rmonesson@wstreatment.com 7620 Gunn Hwy #110, Tampa, FL 33625

WhiteSands Alcohol & Drug Rehab Tampa Gunn HWY

WhiteSands Alcohol & Drug Rehab Tampa on Gunn HWY is part of the WhiteSands family of addiction treatment centers. From detox to inpatient substance abuse treatment.

Website: <https://whitesandstreatment.com/locations/florida/tampa-drug-rehab/>

Email: rmonesson@wstreatment.com

Phone: (813) 285-5113