

Melanotan II

AKA: Melanotan, MT2

Popularity: not measured in current national surveys; requests for equipment at needle exchange increasing

Method of Use:
Subcutaneous injection;
nasal sprays also now sold

Duration: users may use daily to build up a tan over 2-4 weeks, then use every five days to maintain tan

Effects: +ve: tanning, increased libido
Reduced appetite
-ve nausea, flushing of face, increased freckle formation in some users

Law: not licensed in UK as a medicine so supply illegal under Medicines Act

Cost: £20/10mg – enough for 1-2 weeks

Source: Illicit labs, mainly in Asia; resold on-line, gyms, tanning studios

Indicators: tanning faster

Risks: not fully known at this stage;
Risk of infection and BBVs through injecting;
Buying non-sterile or contaminated drugs;
Overtanning
Risks in terms of skin cancer/melanoma formation (?)

