

20.201 Take-Home Exam Extra Credit

The following is a true story.

I received a phone call this morning from an attorney representing a woman in a criminal case. The woman was driving erratically and hit and killed two bicycle riders. The police took a blood sample, analyzed for drugs, and discovered Fentanyl (unknown concentration). The woman confessed to having put a transdermal patch of fentanyl on her finger tip 6-7 hours before the accident. The attorney wanted me to testify on behalf of the woman that the drug did not affect her driving performance. I turned the case down from purely ethical considerations.

For a potential extra 10 points on your exam score, analyze the situation from both a pK and PD perspective and pretend you are giving expert testimony in trial. You can choose your side. Did the drug influence the ability of the driver to avoid hitting the bicyclists?

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20.201 Mechanisms of Drug Actions
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