

[The Embera corporation released information on April 10th, 2015](#) stating their EMB-001 trial medication campaign has raised \$1.9 million dollars in funding and the pill will move forward with further testing. It has been approved for Phase 1 human testing.

EMB-001 is a patented combination product comprising two FDA-approved medications, the cortisol synthesis inhibitor metyrapone and the benzodiazepine oxazepam. These medications are hypothesized to reduce cravings of cigarettes and potentially cocaine as well as other harmful drugs.

The newly released article states “The funding enables the Company to complete a Phase 1, combined single and multiple rising dose clinical trial evaluating the safety and pharmacokinetics of EMB-001 in volunteers who smoke cigarettes but are otherwise healthy.” However, Bob Linke, Chief Executive Officer of Embera stated “ Data from preclinical and pilot studies suggest potential for EMB-001 as a new treatment for addictions affecting underserved and significant patient populations; for example, the nearly one million U.S. citizens suffering from cocaine use disorder have no approved treatment option.”

It appears that this medication, previously used as a [smoking deterrent](#), is now being pushed to clinical trials with high hopes of now eradicating drug addiction - specifically listed as cocaine. The drug has been tested in direct correlation with stress centers in the brain. It is said that this medication combats the effects of stress triggers in the brain that cause a person to turn to addictive substances.

Erin Gainer, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of HRA Pharma stated “As an industry, we need to do better—both for the sake of patients suffering from substance use disorders and the healthcare systems that treat them. The United States alone is burdened by an annual \$173 billion cost for medical care related to substance use disorders.”

With the ever-growing price of addiction it is obvious that economically America is looking at other practical options for curing drug addiction. These questions now presents themselves, “Is the drug harmful in any way?”, “Are there opportunities for addiction to this medication?”, “how cost effective is this medication in relation to rehabilitation centers”, “Is the trial drug a permanent solution?”

Although Ross P. Barrett, Partner at investment firm Seven Holdings, LLC and Chairman of Embera’s Board of Directors stated, “New treatment options for addictions are not only drastically needed but also represent an enormous market opportunity. Smokers who attempt to quit spend over \$1 billion on prescription and over-the-counter drugs per year in the United States, yet only a small percentage of smokers are able to quit with available treatment options” there is no mention of this statistic in relation to cocaine abusers. Needless to say, most smokers do not find it appropriate to enter a stable substance abuse recovery program, but other addicted patrons undoubtedly do.

It appears that Embera may be marketing the medication as a cheaper option to those who may not be able to afford other treatment options. However, most medications that hit the market initially bring with them a hefty price. If one most likely will be seeking compensation from their medical insurance provider for continued use of this medication, what difference would a 90 day plus treatment program make? Many substance abuse and drug addiction services pride themselves on offering affordable services that will be charged to many insurance providers.

Embera lists information about [clinical trials for cocaine addiction treatment](#) that have already taken place back in 2012, “Embera completed a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled pilot clinical study of EMB-001 in cocaine-dependent subjects. EMB-001 treatment resulted in significantly reduced cocaine use, compared to placebo, by the end of the study. Additionally, treatment with EMB-001 led to significant reductions in cocaine craving at several time points during the study and was well tolerated over the six-week treatment period.”

No information has been released as of yet stating the effects of the drug in relation to detox needs. Lack of detox remains a huge concern for those who consider entering a program. Healthcare and [detox professionals say that detoxing can take as much as a week](#). As stated the medication is strictly hoping to curb cravings and stress induced needs to take harmful drugs. This fact causes other concerns to arise regarding the dissipation of rehabilitation centers as a result of the drug’s release. This is a definite possibility and could potentially ruin the experience of many who are in need of a more intense detox and rehabilitation period.

Whether or not continued use of the product is needed, we do not know. As previously stated, Embera says that the medication was well tolerated which doesn’t give the public much information in regards to addictive properties of the drug. It is still up in the air if this drug will offer a permanent solution to drug addiction as recovery programs have been proven to.

Jessica Cooper is a writer and representative of [Beachway Therapy Center](#). She has a passion for physical and mental health and has dedicated her studies to working in the recovery field. These experiences have opened her eyes to a fulfilling and rewarding lifestyle. In her free time you can find her volunteering at local organizations as well as blogging about many health related topics.