

# Experts link woman's death to outlawed drug

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Medical examiners Monday examined the body of an 18-year-old Dallas woman police believe may have died after taking an overdose of Ecstasy, a "designer" drug outlawed in July.

Marya Ruth McKee of 3119 Milton Ave. died after she collapsed about 2:30 a.m.

Monday at Baby's, a nightclub at 3501 McKinney Ave. McKee was taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 3:20 a.m.

Dallas resident Allan Marnez, who told police he was at the club with McKee, said the woman had taken several doses of Ecstasy before she collapsed.

Police spokesmen said fatal overdoses of the designer drug are extremely rare, but

that the drug's potential as a killer was one reason it was banned by federal authorities in July.

"One of the reasons it was banned is that a lot of people didn't realize how dangerous it is," said R.C. Mitchell, Dallas police narcotics officer. "It's a drug that has a lot of abuse potential."

Police said they are awaiting the results of toxicology tests by the Dallas County

medical examiner's office to determine whether the drug caused McKee's death. Those tests are expected to be completed in about three days, authorities said.

Ecstasy, also known as MDMA or methylene dioxyamphetamine, was made illegal after the Drug Enforcement Administration requested an emergency ban of the drug, which had been sold in dozens of bars and clubs throughout the Dallas area.