

Baltimore Ravens Star Ordered Deer Antler Spray

A new report alleges that [Baltimore Ravens](#) star Ray Lewis ordered the deer-antler spray along with deer-antler pills and other products from a company with ties to performance enhancing drugs.

According to a report in the Sports Illustrated, the Ravens star sought help from the company Sports With Alternatives To Steroids (SWATS) in October after he tore his right triceps. The magazine reported that SWATS owner Mitch Ross recorded a call with Lewis hours after injury to the player in a game against Dallas. It was further reported that Lewis asked the owner of SWATS to send him deer-antler spray and pills, along with other products made by the company.

The company revealed that the hormone is harvested from deer in New Zealand. Deer-antler spray and pills contain a hormone termed IGF-1 that is believed to assist in muscle recovery. Sports Illustrated said the product is banned by the NCCA and every major professional league though SWATS claims their product is natural as a food. The spray, made of antler extract, is sprayed under the tongue and is believed to build muscles and makes one bigger, faster, and stronger. It is not possible to detect deer antler spray in drug tests and amateur and professional athletes around the world may be using it as the risk of getting caught is not that high. According to the Baltimore Sun, deer antlers are clipped off to make a deer-antler spray and then they are either grind, frozen, or cooked to get out the nutrients.

Ravens spokesman Kevin Byrne said the team knew about the report and Ryan has denied taking anything and has always passed all tests.

IGF-1 or insulin-like growth factor is a hormone that occurs naturally in the body and circulates in the body. It is used to signal receptors in muscle cells to multiply and grow. Moreover, it aids growth and promote muscle strength in normal ranges besides increasing metabolism of carbohydrates to bring more sugars to the cells to assist in the growth of muscles.

Don Catlin, the former head of UCLA's Olympic Analytical Lab, remarked that IGF-1 is "just like giving someone human growth hormone." Dr. Roberto Salvatori, who studies growth hormone at Johns Hopkins University, remarked that there is no proof of a successful way to deliver IGF-1 in pill or spray form.

Professional golfer [Vijay Singh](#) recently admitted to using the deer-antler spray but claimed that he was not aware that it may contain a substance banned by the US PGA Tour. In an interview with Sports Illustrated, he revealed using the spray. The magazine revealed that the golfer paid one of Sports With Alternatives To Steroids` owners USD 9,000 last November for the spray, hologram chips and other products. He added that he has been in contact with the PGA Tour and fully cooperating with their review of the matter. In another development, former British Open winner Bob Charles of New Zealand has disclosed that he used and promoted a banned deer-antler spray for more than 20 years and is surprised to know that it contains a substance that violates the doping protocols of golf.