

A possible role for ketamine in suicide prevention in emergency and mainstream psychiatry

Sir,

We read with interest the editorial on a possible role for ketamine in suicide prevention in emergency and mainstream psychiatry.^[1] The editorial cited a meta-analysis^[2] that included five studies. One of these five studies^[3] used a single question from the Montgomery–Asberg Depression Rating Scale to assess change in suicidal ideation; the rest, in contrast, used a separate suicidal ideation scale. More importantly, this study^[3] was retracted in July 2017^[4] because it supposedly misrepresented both the protocol-specified doses and the actual-delivered doses of ketamine in the study.

We wonder how much the findings of the meta-analysis^[2] would change were the retracted data^[3] to be removed; and whether the message in the editorial would be moderated, in consequence.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Satish Suhas, Lekhansh Shukla¹

Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, ¹Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Center for Addiction Medicine, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

E-mail: suhasedu@yahoo.in

REFERENCES

1. Sathyanarayana Rao TS, Andrade C. A possible role for ketamine in suicide prevention in emergency and mainstream psychiatry. *Indian J Psychiatry* 2017;59:259-61.
2. Bartoli F, Riboldi I, Crocamo C, Di Brita C, Clerici M, Carrà G, *et al.* Ketamine as a rapid-acting agent for suicidal ideation: A meta-analysis. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev* 2017;77:232-6.
3. Larkin GL, Beautrais AL. A preliminary naturalistic study of low-dose ketamine for depression and suicide ideation in the emergency department. *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol* 2011;14:1127-31.
4. Larkin GL, Beautrais AL. A preliminary naturalistic study of low-dose ketamine for depression and suicide ideation in the emergency department. *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol* 2017;20:611.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

How to cite this article: Suhas S, Shukla L. A possible role for ketamine in suicide prevention in emergency and mainstream psychiatry. *Indian J Psychiatry* 2018;60:257.

© 2018 Indian Journal of Psychiatry | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow