

AUTHOR'S REPLY

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your interest⁽¹⁾ in the recently-published article regarding psychoactive drug use in patients attending outpatient clinics in Karachi, Pakistan.⁽²⁾ We agree about the importance of misuse of psychoactive drugs and its adverse effects particularly among the elderly population. We strongly agree on the importance of the safe and rational use of these drugs and the regulation and control of these agents over-the-counter.

In response to your query about the kind of psychoactive drugs the study subjects were using, the majority of psychoactive drug users were taking benzodiazepines (79.2%), followed by antidepressants (18.2%). It was already mentioned that in Pakistan, tranquilizers are one of the three most widely-used over-the-counter drugs,⁽³⁾ and benzodiazepine abuse has been reported in 84% of cases of self-poisoning.⁽⁴⁾

Yours sincerely,

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