Response to letter "Do all hypnotic drugs and sedatives have risk for cancer?"

Sivertsen, Borge

2016

Sivertsen, B., Salo, P., Pentti, J., Kivimäki, M & Vahtera, J. 2016, 'Response to letter "Do all hypnotic drugs and sedatives have risk for cancer?"', Sleep Medicine, vol. 20, pp. 171-171. DOI: 10.1016/j.sleep.2015.07.014

http://hdl.handle.net/10138/223827
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sleep.2015.07.014

Downloaded from Helda, University of Helsinki institutional repository.

This is an electronic reprint of the original article.

This reprint may differ from the original in pagination and typographic detail.

Please cite the original version.
Letter to the Editor

Response to letter “Do all hypnotic drugs and sedatives have risk for cancer?”

To the Editor:

Iqbal and colleagues analyzed Asian data on three hypnotic/sedative drugs and overall risk of cancer [1]. They found that nitrazepam had a nonsignificant association (adjusted odds ratio [AOR], 0.98; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.80–1.21), while flunitrazepam (AOR, 1.16; 95% CI, 1.04–1.30) and lorametazepam (AOR, 1.19; 95% CI, 1.02–1.38) had a statistically significant association with cancer. They concluded that nitrazepam may be safer than other hypnotics in terms of carcinogenicity. We used meta-analysis to evaluate whether the relative risk ratios reported by Yu-Chuan indeed differ from each other. The I² statistic was 20.8% (p = 0.283), suggesting that this was not the case. Given the lack of statistical evidence, we urge caution in interpreting nitrazepam as a safer drug.

Conflict of interest

The ICMJE Uniform Disclosure Form for Potential Conflicts of Interest associated with this article can be viewed by clicking on the following link: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sleep.2015.07.014.

Reference


Børge Sivertsen *
Division of Mental Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Bergen, Norway

Regional Centre for Child and Youth Mental Health and Child Welfare, Uni Research Health, Bergen, Norway

Department of Psychiatry, Helse Fonna HF, Haugesund, Norway

* Address: Division of Mental Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Kalfarveien 31, 5018 Bergen, Norway.
Tel.: +47 53 20 41 01; fax: +47 53 20 4001.
E-mail address: borge.sivertsen@fhi.no

Paula Salo
Public Sector Research Centre, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Turku, Finland

Department of Psychology, University of Turku, Turku, Finland

Jaana Pentti
Public Sector Research Centre, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Turku, Finland

Mika Kivimäki
Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London Medical School, London, UK

Clinicum, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Jussi Vahtera
Public Sector Research Centre, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Turku, Finland

Department of Public Health, University of Turku and Turku University Hospital, Turku, Finland

Available online 12 August 2015