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Disorders

Ketamine: Medical Indications, Recreational Use and Abuse Liability

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<u>Introduction</u>: Ketamine is an anesthetic agent, also used for other medical purposes (pain, depression). Due to its pharmacological properties, ketamine is diverted and abused. This recreational use has become widespread in France.

Aims: we explore different kinds of ketamine diversion in order to analyze its abuse liability.

<u>Material</u>: based on data collected from addictovigilance tools and from different surveys, we present the characteristics of patients and their various ketamine misuses.

<u>Results</u>: We have studied notifications received between 2000-2014 and 4 recent surveys. Results are reflected in the below table:

Survey	Rave	Sex-Drug	HIV testing cente	r Notifications
Number of users	34	72	13	40
Gender	59% male	100% male	62%	76% male
Mean age	25 +/- 5	37 +/- 9	30 +/- 10	28 +/- 10
Caracteristic population	n specific (festiv) specific (homosexual) General	General
Administration routes	97% snorting	75% snorting 39% injection 17% per os	Not specified	43% snorting 21% per os 18% injection

Notifications reported 6 cases DSM-IV of dependence. In 2 cases, ketamine was used to manage withdrawal of medically prescribed opioids for pain. In 2 cases, ketamine was identified as an adulterant in ecstasy. We report also 5 victims of criminal use of ketamine for sexual assault.

<u>Discussion</u>: Results provides insight into the myriad uses of ketamine. Abuse increase and avaibility of ketamine extends in general population.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Health professional must be informed about the widespread use of ketamine and its consequences. Our results point out the necessity to reinforce its monitoring in France.