

Prof. Rajesh R Tampi
Editors-in-chief, World Journal of Psychiatry

Re: Abdominal pain related to adulterated opium: an emerging issue in drug addicts

Dear Prof. Tampi,

Please find enclosed our answers to the reviewers of the above-captioned manuscript. We took into account all their additional suggestions. Dr. Alison Good, a native English-speaking toxicologist from Scotland, reviewed our manuscript for the language issue.

We hope that our manuscript was enough improved and that you will consider it now for publication in *World Journal of Psychiatry*, as Mini-review.

As already stated, all the authors state that:

- i- This article has not been published or submitted elsewhere for publication.
- ii- There are no financial or other relationships that might lead to a conflict of interest.
- iii- The manuscript has been approved by each author. All the authors each materially and substantially contributed to its conception and completion.

We look forward to your decision.

Should you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Bruno Mégarbane, MD, PhD

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Responses to the reviewers:

Reviewer 1

This is an excellent review of the clinical problem of lead contamination of opium in Iran. Since, as the authors say, much of the opiate trade goes through Iran, why has the lead contamination not spread to other countries? Does it occur with opiates in general or only opium? The English is very good but could benefit from a going over by a native speaker for minor awkwardnesses, some of which make comprehension difficult.

Response

We would like to thank the reviewer for his encouraging remark

1- Most of lead-contaminated opium published cases have been reported from Iran, possibly due to smugglers seeking more profit in selling opium because their business is also under effect of high rate of inflation in Iran. Thus, in order to keep the price stable and prevent losing their consumers due to high price of opium, they add weight to opium using lead. However, other possible reasons to this phenomenon is still ambiguous. A few cases that had been reported from the European countries, had also consumed Iranian opium.

2- As far as the authors are aware and based on the published papers, this contamination has been mostly reported with opium, either in raw form or in the form of opium syrup.

3- The English language was improved as requested. Dr. Alison Good, a native English-speaking toxicologist from Scotland (previously responsible for editing in Clinical Toxicology, IF = 4.3), reviewed our manuscript for the language issue.

Reviewer 2

A very nice manuscript.

Response

We would like to thank the reviewer for his encouraging remark