



## Direct Healthcare Professional Communication

Oct 2023

### **Ketamine: prolonged use leads to serious hepatic and uro-nephrological damage**

Dear Healthcare Professional,

The General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance of the Central Administration for Pharmaceutical Care at The Egyptian Drug Authority would like to inform you of the following **hepatic and uro-nephrological damage with prolonged use of ketamine**

#### ***Summary:***

- An overall increase in the use of ketamine;
- an increase in the number of hepatobiliary (such as cholestasis or cholangitis) and uro-nephrological disorders (non-infectious cystitis, interstitial cystitis, acute renal failure, hydronephrosis), most often serious, after prolonged or repeated use of ketamine;
- off-label use, frequently in the context of prolonged use, mainly when taking in charge of chronic pain including fibromyalgia.
- respect the recommended dosages and limit exposure over time;
- monitor liver function closely (complete liver transaminases, GGT, ALP and bilirubin assessment) in the event of repeated or prolonged use; monitor renal function and urinary cytology closely in the event of repeated or prolonged use. The
- occurrence of hematuria constitutes a warning symptom for screening for urinary tract damage;
- the occurrence of hepatobiliary and/or uro-nephrological damage should suggest repeated use of ketamine in a medical or non-medical context (festive or sexual use – chemsex practice).

#### ***Further information on the safety concern and the recommendations***

Reminder of current prescription and delivery conditions:

Ketamine:

- is a narcotic whose prescription is limited to 28 days, written in full on a secure prescription
- is reserved for hospital use
- can be administered by any doctor specializing in anesthesia-resuscitation or emergency medicine in cases where they intervene in an emergency situation or as part of a mobile medical assistance or medical repatriation structure.
- In the case of home treatment, given the potential risk of abuse and misuse of ketamine, patients and caregivers must be informed of the need:
- keep the ampoules in a locked, safe and secure place where other people cannot to access ;  
return all unused ampoules to the pharmacy.





**Reference:**

ANSM: <https://ansm.sante.fr/informations-de-securite/ketamine-une-utilisation-prolongee-entraine-des-atteintes-graves-hepatiques-et-uronephrologiques>

**Call for reporting**

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Egyptian reporting system:

Name: General Administration for Pharmaceutical Vigilance

Email: [pv.followup@edaegypt.gov.eg](mailto:pv.followup@edaegypt.gov.eg)

Online reporting: <https://primaryreporting.who-umc.org/EG>

QR Code:



Hotline: 15301

