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# Sleep Medicine

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## 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 lorazepam (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 I<sup>2</sup> 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

- [1] Iqbal U, Jian WS, Huang CW, et al. Do all hypnotic and sedatives have risk for cancer? *Sleep Med* 2015;20:170.

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