



Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences & Forensic Medicine

المجلة العربية لعلوم الأدلة الجنائية والطب الشرعي

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Arab Society for Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine

Author's Response

الرد على رسالة إلى المحرر



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Received 05 Apr. 2021; Accepted 18 Apr. 2021; Available Online 01 Jun. 2021

Abstract

This letter is in response to the Letter to the Editor (Corkery J, Schifano F, Guirguis A. Commentary on: Attafi IM, Albeishy MY, Oraiby ME, Khardali IA, Shaikhain GA, Fageeh MM. Post-mortem Distribution of Cathinone and Cathine in Human Biological Specimens in a Case of Death Associated with Khat Chewing. Arab J Forensic Sci Forensic Med. 2018 Jun 7;1(7). Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences & Forensic Medicine. 2019 Dec 31;1(10):1473-1475).

المستخلص

هذه الرسالة هي رد على رسالة إلى المحرر (Corkery J, Schifano F, Guirguis A. تعليقا حول دراسة: Attafi IM, Albeishy MY, Oraiby ME, Khardali IA, Shaikhain GA, Fageeh MM. توزيع ما بعد الوفاة لمادتي الكاثينون والكاثين في عينات بيولوجية بشرية في حالة وفاة مرتبطة بمضغ القات. المجلة العربية لعلوم الأدلة الجنائية والطب الشرعي. 7 يونيو 2018؛ 1 (7). المجلة العربية لعلوم الأدلة الجنائية والطب الشرعي. 31 ديسمبر 2019؛ 1(10):1473-1475).

Keywords: Forensic Science, Khat, Cathine, Cathinone, Postmortem Distribution.

الكلمات المفتاحية: علوم الأدلة الجنائية، القات، الكاثين، الكاثينون، توزيع ما بعد الوفاة.



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doi: 10.26735/BWU1018

We thank Corkery et al., [1] for their knowledgeable comments on our study in which we determined the postmortem concentrations of cathinone and cathine in a fatal case suspected to be due to khat overdose [2]. One concern was that several factors should be considered in determining cathinone and cathine such as sampling site and time. We had mentioned that in our study.

The second concern was the autopsy findings, including co-ingestion of other drugs, and the cause and manner of death. Our analysis (by using immunoassay and GC/MS analytical techniques) did not find any other co-ingested drug, except cathinone and cathine. These findings were later confirmed by LC-MS/MS which also showed similar results. Moreover, the external examination showed no signs of violence, and the suspected cause of death was cardiac arrest.

Authors agree with the comments of Corkery et al. about the need to build up evidence-based published data on the postmortem tissue distribution of cathinone and cathine, a study on the analysis of fatalities involving khat consumption in Jizan area

(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) is in progress. This study will address the postmortem tissue distribution of cathinone and cathine among khat-associated fatalities.

References

1. Corkery J, Schifano F, Guirguis A. Commentary on: Attafi IM, Albeishy MY, Oraiby ME, Khardali IA, Shaikhain GA, Fageeh MM. Postmortem Distribution of Cathinone and Cathine in Human Biological Specimens in a Case of Death Associated with Khat Chewing. *Arab J Forensic Sci Forensic Med.* 2018 Jun 7;1(7). *Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences & Forensic Medicine.* 2019 Dec 31;1(10):1473-1475. <https://doi.org/10.26735/16586794.2019.039>
2. Attafi IM, Albeishy MY, Oraiby ME, Khardali IA, Shaikhain GA, Fageeh MM. Postmortem Distribution of Cathinone and Cathine in Human Biological Specimens in a Case of Death Associated with Khat Chewing. *Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences & Forensic Medicine.* 2018;1(7):922-30. <https://doi.org/10.26735/16586794.2018.013>

