

LETTERS TO EDITOR

PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG SALES IN WARANGAL

Sir,

I thank Andrade for his comments (IJP, letters to editor, April, 1997) on my article about psychotropic drug sales in Warangal.

His presumptions that higher utilization of drug may reflect the prevalence of the disorder for which the drug is prescribed, higher utilization of a drug may reflect the range of

indications for which the drug is indicated and the formula based on average dose does not stand to practical reality. It is scientific but drug prescribing practices are far from scientific. It was and is the observation of the author that all the diagnoses noted on the prescriptions are either depression and/or AN. Patients after a single visit, use the same on and off for prolonged periods. Under these circumstances coming to any other conclusion based on one's own presumptions is hazardous. Ground realities are far different and ignoring them will lead to confined conclusions.

A thorough reading of the article will show newer antipsychotics, which are costly, had less sales so the question of costly drugs pushing up the sales did not arise. Further simple computation of data presented shows that the order of sales in Rs., is in agreement with all India sales-tranquillizers, including alprazolam, Rs. 19.38 lacs, antidepressants, including fluoxetine, 16.35 lacs and antipsychotics Rs. 8.27 lacs. This indicates that prescribing practices are same in other parts of the country.

I thank Chittaranjan Andrade for pointing an alternative interpretation of the data presented and for the pure scientific value of it.

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