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Abstract


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Production and hosting by NAUSS

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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