TITLE: Ketamine for Pain Control: Clinical Benefits, Harms, and Guidelines for Use

DATE: 15 January 2009

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What are the clinical benefits and harms of using ketamine for pain control?
2. What are the guidelines for use of ketamine for pain control?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2002 and January 2009, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to systematic reviews, health technology assessments, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, observational studies containing safety data, and guidelines. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, HTA reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by RCTs, controlled clinical trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

A large volume of literature was identified during our search, therefore only those studies published in 2004 or later were included. The literature search identified one health technology assessment, one systematic review, 27 randomized controlled trials, 12 observational studies focused on safety issues, and three evidence-based guidelines. Additional articles of potential interest are included in the appendix.

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Health technology assessments


Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


**Controlled clinical trials**
No literature identified.

**Observational studies (safety only)**


Guidelines and recommendations


APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review articles


