Author’s response to reviews

Title: Gender differences in acute recreational drug toxicity: a case series from Oslo, Norway

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear dr Khoshnood and reviewers

Thank you for this opportunity to revise our manuscript.

Reviewer 4

The authors have substantially improved the manuscript and they have taken in account the majority of comments of all reviewers (some of the comments concerned identical issues).

The aim, methods, results and discussion sections are much more clear in this version.

The authors explained the lack of controls (the retrospective study design with no possibility of comparison with similar control group).

I should recommend one small change in the Discussion section - from page 25, line 31 to page 26 line 9 could first symptoms associated with recreational drug toxicity be discussed (e.g. agitation, psychiatric disorders, bradycardia, hypotension, peak creatinine and CK levels…) and treatment (antidotes, intubation, sedation, length of stay…) as second; in this part both treatment and symptoms are mixed and discussed together.
- We have changed the order of these elements in Discussion accordingly. First, the signs and symptoms, then treatment. However, we have kept the sentence about agitation, psychosis and bradypnoea in the paragraph about treatment, as this shows why we cannot explain the gender differences in intubation and sedation from the symptoms and signs recorded in our study. We have added a sentence to clarify this.

- In addition, we have corrected some typos.

Oslo, 3 April 2019

On behalf of the authors

Yours sincerely

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