

# Review of: "Pharmacologically Altering the Minds of the Old, Sick, and Dying"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is very interesting by providing the side effects of medication, polypharmacy, and PIM. It provides a good review of the prevalence of polypharmacy and its relation to physical side effects, early admission to the hospital, and EMR. But the following items should be addressed for minor revision:

1. The title should be changed to: "Psychotropics Altering the Minds of the Old, Sick, and Dying." The whole body of the article is related to psychotropic medications.
2. The definition of polypharmacy should not be so conservative as mentioned in the article: two or more medications. In some references, it has been mentioned as 5 or more, and another definition is "inappropriate drugs prescribed for the elderly."
3. Providing a list of drugs should be necessary; they are accessible in any textbooks and references.
4. The article did not consider the problematic behaviors of mental disorders such as agitation and any other disruptive behaviors which put the elderly patient in a hazardous condition and increase the burden of caregivers, which may lead to the institutionalization of the old people.
5. Talking about the end-of-life stage requires the best effective medication to make individuals free of pain. There is a remarkable bias when the author mentions that: "Of note, though effective for pain management, opiates also slow down the mind and thoughts, and thus are medically considered "*psychoactive*" and lead to tolerance and abuse in many cases among all age sectors." It is not reasonable to talk about falling for the individuals who are at the end-of-life stage.

Thank you