

Peer Review

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

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Major Concerns

1. Balance and Objectivity of Interpretation

The manuscript frequently adopts a strongly critical tone suggesting that psychotropic drug use is inherently harmful or unjustified. While adverse effects are well documented, psychotropic medications also provide substantial benefits when appropriately prescribed. The discussion would benefit from a more balanced evaluation acknowledging therapeutic indications, symptom relief, and quality-of-life improvement in geriatric and palliative populations.

2. Strength of Causal Claims

Several statements imply that psychotropic medications directly cause neurochemical imbalance or mental deterioration. These claims require cautious framing and stronger evidence support. Current scientific understanding of psychiatric pathophysiology is complex and multifactorial, and the manuscript should avoid overstating causality.

3. Lack of Structured Review Methodology

The article presents as a narrative review without clearly defined search methodology, inclusion criteria, or evidence appraisal strategy. Providing details regarding literature selection and evaluation would improve transparency and reproducibility.

4. Overextension of Drug Side-Effect Listings

The extensive listing of side effects across numerous medications, while informative, reduces readability and may unintentionally exaggerate perceived risk without contextualizing frequency or clinical relevance. Summarizing common adverse effect categories would improve clarity.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.