

Review of: "Psychedelic drugs as a long-needed innovation in psychiatry"

Nermin Yücel

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article discusses the therapeutic use of psychedelic drugs as a potential innovation in the field of psychiatry. After addressing current challenges and limitations of the biomedical model, the authors suggest that the use of psychedelic drugs in psychotherapeutic settings offers a promising and integrative treatment option with lasting effects for mental health patients. The article thoroughly examines the pharmacological effects, neurobiological mechanisms, and psychological effects of psychedelic drugs. It also discusses the potential applications of psychedelic drugs in the treatment of various mental health disorders, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, and addiction.

The article supports its argument by presenting recent research and clinical trials. These include clinical trials that demonstrate the positive effects of psychedelic drugs such as psilocybin, MDMA, and LSD in the treatment of conditions like depression, PTSD, and addiction. The article also evaluates the neurobiological mechanisms of psychedelic drugs, their ability to alter functional connectivity in brain networks, and their psychological effects.

A notable point in the article is the emphasis on combining biomedical knowledge with traditional practices. The authors suggest that integrating traditional healing practices and communal use of psychedelic plants can provide valuable insights into optimizing the therapeutic process. They also highlight the importance of community-based interventions and promoting social connection in mental health treatment.

The article acknowledges the potential undesired effects and limitations of psychedelic drugs. It emphasizes the need for strict screening criteria and careful monitoring to ensure the safety and appropriateness of treatment. Further research is needed to better understand potential adverse events and evaluate the long-term effectiveness of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy.

Overall, the article provides a comprehensive examination of the potential benefits and limitations of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy in addressing the challenges faced by the field of psychiatry. It presents a strong argument supported by current research and clinical trials. However, the article has some weaknesses, including the need for more extensive use of references in certain sections and the requirement for more details in addressing specific topics. Additionally, the inclusion of recent developments in the past three years could enhance the article if it is revised.

In conclusion, the article offers valuable insights into the potential of psychedelic drugs as an innovative approach in psychiatry. However, further research and clinical trials are necessary. The article effectively discusses the potential

advantages and limitations of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy and, therefore, should be considered for publication.

Sincerely,

Nermin YUCEL, M.D.