



## The 11th Palliative Care Congress Glasgow 2016

### Session Abstract

## Ketamine

*Professor Marie Fallon*

Friday 11 March 2016

0915 - 1000

Following on from basic science work with the role of ketamine as an NMDA antagonist in pain states with central sensitization, there has been widespread use of ketamine since the early 1990s.

Individual clinicians have always been impressed by the positive benefit of ketamine in individual pain states, however the evidence base for the use of ketamine has remained weak. Ketamine is, however, on the WHO essential drug list. Our early translational research work with individual patients with central sensitization was positive, however unblinded. Our double-blind RCT in peripheral vascular disease (a pain state with central sensitization) was positive. The Currow RCT of parenteral ketamine in any uncontrolled pain state and using minimal titration was, not unsurprisingly, negative. Our current double-blind RCT of oral ketamine in cancer-related neuropathic pain will be presented and guidance as to appropriate clinical use and an appropriate future clinical research paradigm, both of which focus on central sensitization, will be discussed.

Fallon MT, Welsh J. The role of ketamine in pain control. *European Journal of Palliative Care* 1996; 3(4): 143-146.

Mitchell A, Fallon MT. A single infusion of intravenous ketamine improves pain relief in patients with critical limb ischaemia: results of a double-blind, randomised controlled trial. *Pain* 2002; 97:275-281

Hardy J, Quinn S, Fazekas B, Plummer J, Eckermann S, Agar M, Spruyt O, Rowett D, and Currow DC. Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Assess the Efficacy and Toxicity of Subcutaneous Ketamine in the Management of Cancer Pain. *J Clin Oncol* 2012; 30:3611-3617.

Fallon MT, Wilcock A, Bray C, Paul J, Lewsley EA, Laird BJA. A randomised double-blind controlled trial of ketamine versus placebo in conjunction with best pain management in cancer-related neuropathic pain; 2016 (in press)