Introduction
Traditional treatments for depression have numerous side effects.

Ketamine is a novel, fast-acting antidepressant medication for treatment resistant depression.

Whether sexual dysfunction and anxiety in female subjects are affected by ketamine administered weekly, as in humans, is unknown.

Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hormone Treated</th>
<th>Ketamine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 µg estradiol benzoate (EB) 48 hrs pre-test</td>
<td>10 mg/kg Ketamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 mg progesterone (P) 4 hrs pre-test</td>
<td>Injected IP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Ovaries Removed

No Contact: Stimulus animals behind wire mesh

Contact: Mating permitted

- Time with Stimulus Animal: duration of time inside either stimulus animal’s compartment.
- Contact-Return Latency (CRL): time to return to male after receipt of a stimulation

Partner Preference Tests

Is sexual motivation or anxiety in female rats affected by anti-depressant doses of ketamine?

Effects of ketamine on sexual behavior and anxiety in female rats.

Sarah H. Meerts², Fay A. Guarraci³, Chantal M. F. Gonzalez³, Maryam Ali³, Devon Lucero³, Michael Broyles³

¹ Department of Psychology, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX
² Department of Psychology, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Sexual Preference Tests

No Contact

| Saline Male | Ketamine Male |
| Saline Female | Ketamine Female |

Contact

| Saline Male | Ketamine Male |
| Saline Female | Ketamine Female |

Mating Behaviors

Percentage of exits

Mount

Intromission

Ejaculation

Contact-Return Latency

Solicitation Behaviors

Elevated Plus Maze

Elevated Plus Maze Test

- Time in open arm or closed arm

Discussion

Sexual experience and ketamine treatment resulted in increased time with the male and decreased time with the female stimulus animal.

Ketamine-treated rats were less likely to exit the male compartment and returned more quickly than saline-treated rats.

Elevated plus maze behavior was unaffected by ketamine treatment.

Ketamine enhanced sexual motivation and mating behavior, particularly in sexually naïve female rats.

Our results provide support for the continued exploration of ketamine as treatment for depression and possibility a treatment for sexual dysfunction in women.

Ketamine is a promising new treatment for depression particularly if, as shown here, effects on sexual function are positive and not disruptive.