Letter to editor

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Dear Editor,

I have a few comments on a recent article in the October 15, 2010 issue of *Psychopharmacology*, “Sildenafil adjunctive therapy to risperidone in the treatment of the negative symptoms of schizophrenia: a double-blind randomized placebo-controlled trial,” by Shahin Akhondzadeh, et al. (Akhondzadeh et al. 2010).

1. The rationale for the study has been stated as “It has been suggested that phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors, such as sildenafil, may be effective in the treatment of negative symptoms of schizophrenia.” However, the authors do not provide any reference for their rationale. They have provided references of studies which have shown improvement in cognitive abilities in animal models (nonschizophrenic animals; Siuciak 2008; Reneerkens et al. 2009). Cognitive deficits and negative symptoms in schizophrenia represent two different aspects of the disease. The link between the two remains inconclusive.
2. There is a considerable body of evidence in animal models, which suggests that the phosphodiesterase inhibitors have an antidepressant effect, and this antidepressant effect could lead to an improvement in the negative symptoms of schizophrenia (Aggarwal et al. 2010; Liebenberg et al. 2010; Zomkowski et al. 2010). The authors fail to mention about this pathway and to

discuss the possibility that the antidepressant effect could lead to an improvement in the negative symptoms.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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