



SSRIs link to higher risk of adverse events after surgery

PERIOPERATIVE use of SSRIs is linked to a higher risk of adverse events after major surgery in a large observational study.

US researchers analysed data from more than 530,000 adult patients at 375 hospitals, finding SSRIs linked to a 20% increased risk of death, and higher risk of bleeding and of hospital readmission.

However, commentators caution in an editorial that the overall mortality rate in the study was low and the absolute risk for an average patient would likely be quite small.

Suddenly stopping SSRI therapy may precipitate withdrawal symptoms, worsen depression and increase sensitivity to postoperative pain, the editorialists said.

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