

Ademetionine

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First report of suicidal ideation: case report

A 61-year-old woman attempted suicide after self-prescribing ademetionine [*dosage not stated*] for her depressive symptoms.

The woman, who had a history of hyperthyroidism which had been treated with methimazole, started taking ademetionine for "mood support". Approximately one day later, she began having suicidal thoughts. Four days after starting ademetionine, she attempted suicide by pouring gasoline on her body and setting herself on fire. She was hospitalised with second- and third-degree burns over more than 35% of her body surface area. After being stabilised in the trauma unit, a psychiatric consultation was conducted. She reported a long-term history of depressive symptoms such as insomnia, irritability, decreased concentration and low energy, which had worsened during the previous 2 months. She also reported personal stressors including conflict with her husband and financial difficulties.

Ademetionine was discontinued, and the woman began receiving citalopram. She was transferred to the burn unit where she underwent two graft surgeries. Due to elevated T4 and decreased TSH levels, methimazole was restarted. Once medically stable, she was moved to the psychiatric inpatient unit until her discharge from hospital.

Author comment: *"Although it is possible that the suicide attempt in this case report is related directly to the ingestion of SAME [S-adenosylmethionine], other explanations should be considered."*

Chitiva H, et al. Suicide attempt by self-burning associated with ingestion of S-adenosylmethionine: A review of the literature and case report. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease* 200; 99-101, No. 1, Jan 2012. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/nmd.0b013e31823fafdf> - USA 803067805

» **Editorial comment:** A search of AdisBase, Medline, Embase and the WHO ADR database did not reveal any previous reports of suicidal ideation associated with ademetionine.