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The role of glutamatergic modulation in the mechanism of action of ketamine, a prototype rapid-acting antidepressant drug

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## **Abstract**

Over the past decade, ketamine has been one of the most commonly studied potential antidepressants. This is because it produces a spectacularly rapid and persistent therapeutic effect in people suffering from severe treatment-resistant depression (TRD), for which classical drugs are ineffective. Similar efficacy was demonstrated for scopolamine, a drug belonging to a completely different pharmacological group. This interesting coincidence piqued the interest of psychopharmacologists and prompted them to search for a possible common mechanism of these rapid acting antidepressant drugs (RAADs). A thorough explanation of this mechanism is also important because each of these substances induces serious side effects. Knowing the mechanism responsible for the therapeutic efficacy of

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