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## Review

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## Review

**The medieval Persian manuscript of *Afyunieh*: the first individual treatise on the opium and addiction in history**

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**ABSTRACT**

According to historical evidence, the abuse of opium has been reported all over the globe—specifically throughout Eastern nations—since the sixteenth century. Before that, opium had mostly been applied as medication. Reference has been made in traditional Persian medical literature to the method of cultivation, properties, side effects and toxicity. In sixteenth century Iran, during the reign of the Safavids, opium abuse began. It was from then that prominent Persian scholars started to think of solutions to this societal problem. One of the most famous scholars was Imad al-Din Mahmud ibn Mas'ud Shirazi, who composed a book concerning

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