

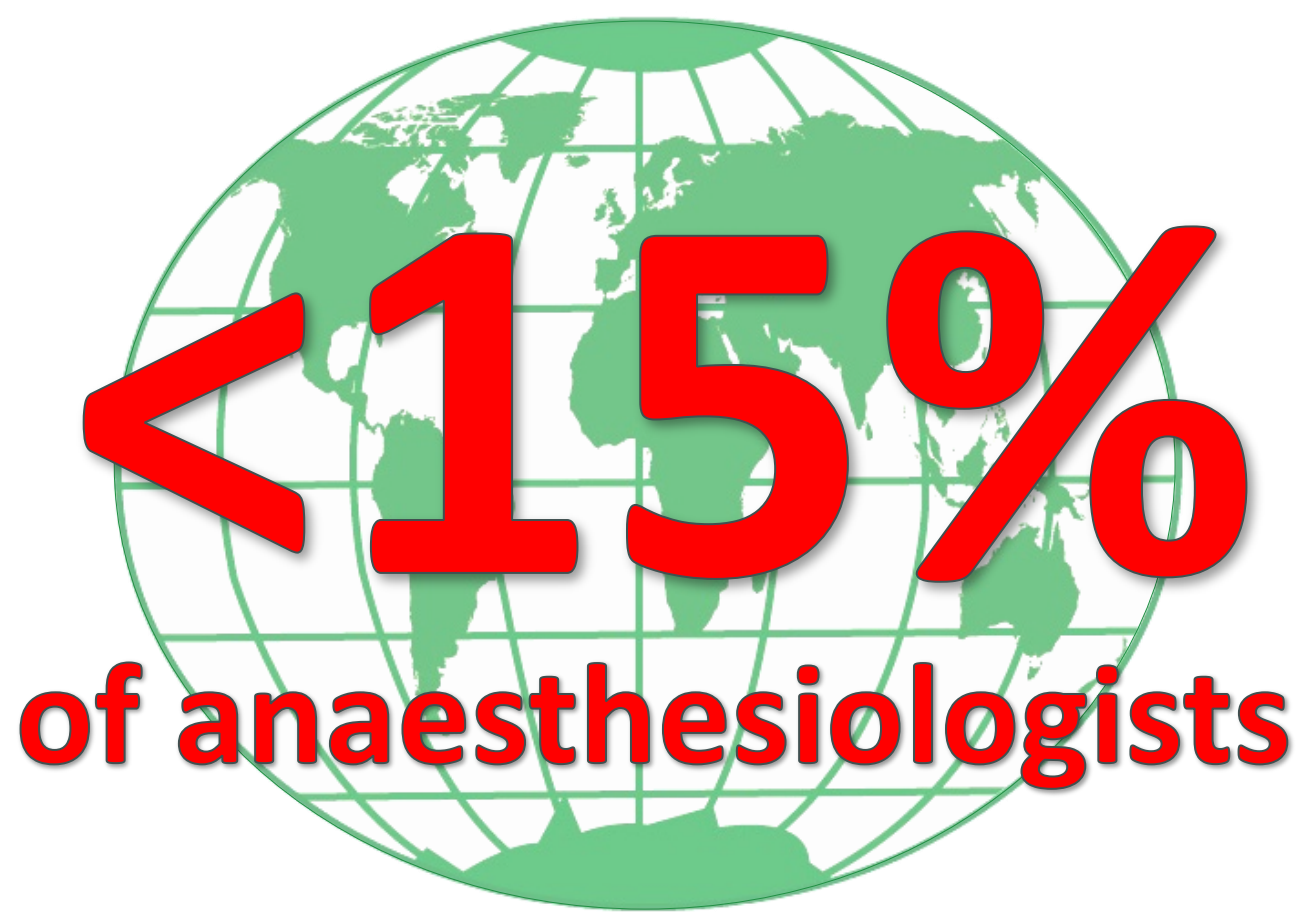


WFSA
WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF
ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

FACT SHEET KETAMINE

Ketamine is an essential medicine

It is the only anaesthetic that does not require oxygen, electricity, anaesthetic equipment, or trained anaesthesia providers, all of which remain limited in low and middle income countries.



work in LMICs. This huge shortage means nurses & clinical assistants give the most anaesthetics



people in rural areas in LMICs already lack access to essential medicines



of medical facilities in 22 LMICs recently surveyed had ketamine available. Oxygen was consistently available only 46% of the time

Ketamine does not cause significant social harm

Although chronic and heavy abuse can cause limited harmful effects, in the vast majority of countries the medical benefits of ketamine vastly outweigh potential harm.

16th

Ketamine is **not** widely abused globally. The drug ranked 16th in popularity in Global Drug Survey's 2014 findings, often not appearing in the 'Top 20' list in individual countries



In the USA and Europe, Ketamine is used to manage pain in cancer patients, to treat depression and other mental illnesses, and is used on an ad-hoc basis in hospitals

While a number of countries control ketamine domestically, the World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) has critically evaluated ketamine 3 times (2006, 2012 and 2014) and advised against placing ketamine under international control because:

“Ketamine abuse does not appear to pose a sufficient public health risk of global scale to warrant scheduling.”

The Committee recognized that in countries where such abuse is a problem, putting ketamine under national control may be considered.