AddictionTherapy-2013

OMICS Group Conferences
Accelerating Scientific Discovery

2nd International Conference and Exhibition on
Addiction Research & Therapy

July 22-24, 2013 Las Vegas, USA

# Suicide in patients with alcohol use disorders: Risk assessment and prevention strategies

**Kirk J. Brower**
*University of Michigan Addiction Research Center, USA*

## Abstract

Over 38,000 people in the U.S. committed suicide in 2011, a rate of 12.3 per 100,000.More than half of suicides in the U.S. involve firearms. Alcohol use disorders (AUDs) increase the risk for suicide by greater than 3-fold after adjusting for other psychiatric disorders, and 20-33% of increased deaths in alcoholics are explained by suicide. A history of suicide attempts is one of the strongest risk factors for eventual suicide, and there are 25 suicide attempts for every suicide in the U.S., with approximately 1 million adults attempting suicide in the past year. Risk factors for suicide attempts in patients with AUDs are well-studied and deserve careful assessment in clinical settings. They include predisposing or distal factors such as genetics,family history, childhood trauma, personality traits (impulsivity, negative affect), illness severity, and comorbidity; and precipitating or proximal factors such as stressful life events, new-onset depressive episodes, andrelapse to drinking. Intoxication with alcohol increases the odds of a suicide attempt by at least 6-fold. Modifiable, protective factors are less well-studied in patients with AUDs, but include coping skills for stressful life events, social network supports, and treatment aimed at relapse prevention and comorbid mental disorders. Assessment of risk and strategies for prevention will be reviewed.

## Biography

Dr. Kirk Brower is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan, where he joined the faculty in 1986. He graduated medical school with honors from the University of California, Irvine and completed a psychiatry residency at UCLA. He directs the University of Michigan Addiction Treatment Services as well as their accredited Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Program. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. His research focuses on improving treatment for alcohol dependence and co-occurring insomnia. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, and serves on the Board of Field Editors for *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

kbrower@med.umich.edu