

## PE1651/AAAAAA

Anonymous submission of 23 January 2018

I have been supporting and caring for my wife through her severe experience with being prescribed an SSRI antidepressants.

The medical profession has failed us in the following ways for over two decades

- Unnecessary prescribing of an antidepressant for situational anxiety that could of being resolved through other therapies.
- Failure to identify serious neurological side effects early on in the treatment. When seizure type side effects were reported to our local Dr they were dismissed and we were told it was just anxiety, however later on it was diagnosed and confirmed as extrapyramidal side effects from SSRIs. These have developed into debilitating movement disorders.
- Inadequate knowledge of withdrawal symptoms leading the Dr to think it was the original condition but in fact the drug. The withdrawal symptoms have been far worse than the original problem. This has lead to her dose being increased and yet again chronic use as developed.

As a consequence of all of this my wife's health has deteriorated rapidly over the years. She has gone from a normal functioning person, working and studying to being completely incapacitated. She has always taking care of her self through diet and exercise and does not drink or smoke, but yet a legally prescribed pill has left her this way. This has impacted us financially as I have to work longer hours to make up for the loss of income. Also the time taking from work to care for her. Emotionally this has been devastating, to watch someone suffer at the hands of these drugs is truly heartbreaking

When the withdrawal and side effects from these drugs are so severe that a person is so incapacitated to the point of not even being able to feed themselves or stand up, you have to ask yourself what an earth are these pills doing to someone's brain. Are they the new age lobotomy? Do doctors even know the mechanism of how these drug works?

Mr Marsh, who is now one of Britain's most eminent neurosurgeons, says lobotomies was simply bad science. "It reflected very bad medicine, bad science, because it was clear the patients who were subjected to this procedure were never followed up properly. If you saw the patient after the operation they'd seem alright, they'd walk and talk and say thank you doctor," he observes. The fact they were totally ruined as social human beings probably didn't count (BBC, 2011. The strange and Curious History of Lobotomies<sup>1</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-15629160>

So are we not just replacing surgical instruments for potent chemicals? I ask again, is prescribing these drugs just a new age lobotomy?

It is clear that prescribing antidepressants will continue as the medical profession is so greatly influenced by the pharmaceutical companies. They seem to justify this prescribing by still claiming that it is necessary due to a chemical imbalance in the brain, even though there is no evidence to prove this theory. The fact that my wife goes to the Dr to get her script filled and is never asked how she is on the drug, any side effects occurring etc just shows there is no interest or concern in getting her to discontinue the drug and highlights the need for it to be used long term. This is certainly not just the case with just a handful of GP's, it is with a majority of them over the years. We have moved house and still with the change of Drs we get the same response. Again why are these Drs so uneducated about these drugs?

After going on online support forums with my wife we found she was not the only one being severely affected by these drugs and that many people have similar stories. I certainly don't feel like she has just fallen through the cracks and is a rare case, she is just one of many who are suffering in silence.

If the medical profession still insist on prescribing these demon drugs, there should be at least stricter guidelines for the reason for prescribing and certainly emphasis on discontinuing the drug after a certain time.

Apart from profiting from money, I will never understand why anyone would want to chemically mess with the delicate neurotransmitters in someone's brain. The fact that I learnt that these drugs were only trialled for six weeks was pretty scary, so what are these drugs actually doing long term? Again are we heading into lobotomy territory?

It was once considered that Valium could not cause addiction and withdrawal, to me it just just sounds like history is repeating itself.

Pharmaceutical companies must be laughing all the way to the bank because everyone is so fooled into their great business plan. Let's use the Drs as uneducated pawns to prescribe the drugs and get people dependant because they can't discontinue. It appears that when any problem arises with these drugs no one seems to want to investigate or take responsibility for it. They either put the blame back on the patient or blame is passed in a circle to the Dr, the FDA, back to the patient again but never ever THE DRUGS.

There needs to be a thorough investigation into the prescribing and monitoring of all psychiatric drugs in the medical profession. In addition, informed consent of exactly how the drug is supposedly helping their condition, the side effects and risks involved.

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Another area that needs to be addressed is the lack of knowledge about withdrawal. Drs seem to think that 4-6 weeks is a sufficient time to discontinue psychiatric drugs, this is the equivalent to abruptly stopping or going cold turkey, particularly for someone who has been on the drugs for many years.

Laurie Oakley's Pharmaceutical Rape series on Dr David Healy's website states exactly what's happening. We have the cast of characters-the violators (marketers, approval of medicine etc), the accomplices (medical professionals, prescribers) and the victims (people who experience, physical, emotional and mental suffering from these drugs without given consent of the dangers of these drugs).

"As with sexual rape, the victims of pharmaceutical violation are everywhere, walking among us unrecognized. Many may not even connect what they experience to their medications. This is a violation involving physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual damage at the hands of those holding power over medicines, who deny any wrongdoing and remain free to do the same to others"