



The Need for Fully Informed Parental Consent with Regards to Psychiatric Drugs

REPORT SIDE EFFECTS OF PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS

You can responsibly report any side effect to a psychiatric drug to the TGA's Australian Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting System by:

- **Phoning the Consumer Adverse Medications Events Line: 1300 134 237.**
- **Electronically, by logging on to: <http://www.tga.gov.au/report-side-effect-medicine> and filling out a report.**
- **Or to your doctor or pharmacist who can make the report for you.**

This can force an investigation into the drug. You can also find out the reported side effects in Australia for any psychiatric drug by logging onto www.tga.gov.au and clicking on "Adverse Events" on the home page.

Please also report the same effects to CCHR at: www.cchr.org.au

CCHR Contact details:

CCHR Australian National Office:

(02) 9964 9844 • national@cchr.org.au

CCHR VIC: 1300 085 995 • info@cchr victoria.org.au

Websites: International: www.cchr.org

Australian National Office: www.cchr.org.au

WARNING: No one should stop taking any psychiatric drug without the advice and assistance of a competent medical doctor.

CCHR was established in 1969 by the Church of Scientology and Professor of Psychiatry the late Dr Thomas Szasz with the sole purpose of investigating and exposing psychiatric violations of human rights.
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PLEASE DO NOT LITTER

The cause of the problem needs to be found for each child (and adult) and then the cause of the problem rectified. Other areas that can be looked at for the causes of unwanted behaviour include: poor diet, allergies, exercise, the child is intelligent and gifted so is therefore bored in class, the child is behind at school and may need tutoring, phonics and the use of a small dictionary may assist the child at school.

Some children who are troubled require special care — no doubt. But they should be given holistic, humane care that improves their condition. They need a safe environment, good nutrition, rest, exercise and help with life's "psychiatric symptoms" and therefore should be addressed with the correct medical treatment. Studies show that once the physical condition is handled, the mental symptoms disappear. Firstly the child should be checked for any physical problems.

ALTERNATIVES

Over the last decade there has been a dramatic increase in the psychiatric labelling and subsequent prescription of psychiatric drugs to Australian children. Parents have a right to be fully informed about any potential side effects of these drugs and a right to be told of any alternative treatments so they can decide for themselves what treatments they wish their child or themselves to have. Yet, there is vital information about these drugs, including dangerous side effects that parents and others who are responsible for the welfare of children are not being told including:

ADHD DRUGS

There are no blood tests, x-rays or other physical tests that can diagnose or determine the existence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or any learning or childhood "mental disorder." These diagnoses are based solely on opinion. In October 2004, The Western Australian Government completed their Inquiry into ADHD. One of their findings stated: "There are no tests that identify the existence of ADHD in a biological sense."

- Ritalin and dexamphetamine are Schedule 8 drugs in Australia. This means they are in the same category as cocaine, opium and morphine. This category is labelled "controlled drugs" to reduce misuse and dependence.
- There were 496 adverse drug reaction reports (ADRs) including 7 deaths linked to ADHD drugs reported to Australia's drug regulatory agency, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by mid-2015. Experts say it is thought that between 1 and 10% of ADRs are reported so the deaths could be much higher.
- Between 2004 and 2015, adverse drug reactions (ADRs) for the non-stimulant ADHD drug Strattera (an antidepressant) reveal that 8 children under 13 experienced suicidal ideation including a 9 year old who committed suicide.
- A 2005 Oregon Health and Science University Evidence-Based Practice Centre review of 2,287 studies – virtually every study ever conducted on ADHD drugs – determined that no trials had shown the effectiveness of stimulants and that there was a lack of evidence that they could affect "academic performance, risky behaviours and social achievements."
- The 2010 Raine Study in Western Australia (the first ever long term study) found that stimulants placed children at risk of significantly greater diastolic blood pressure than those not medicated. This side effect can predispose children to the risk of heart attacks and stroke. They also confirmed that

"stimulant medication use increased the odds of below-age-level academic achievement by a factor of 10 times" which "strongly suggests that medication may not result in any long term academic gains (as rated by a classroom teacher)."

ANTIDEPRESSANTS

- In December 2004 the Australian TGA warned there were indications in use by children and adolescents of the most common antidepressants of an increased risk of suicidality. This included suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and self-harm events.
- There have been 36 reports of Australian children under 19 years old who experienced suicidal ideation or attempted suicide, while taking antidepressants. There have also been 5 deaths in the 10 to 19 age group. This is despite the fact the federal government have not authorised the use of any antidepressant for depression in children under 18.
- There have been over 18,500 adverse drug reaction reports including 360 deaths in relation to antidepressants in Australia.

ANTIPSYCHOTICS

- There has been over 15,500 adverse drug reaction reports in Australia for antipsychotics including 595 deaths, of which 15 were aged 0 to 19 (including intrauterine).
- Over 13,600 Australian children under 16 are prescribed antipsychotics known to cause diabetes, 1,100 of those aged 2-6. In the US, Eli Lilly has paid out \$1.4 billion to resolve claims related to its antipsychotic Zyprexa.
- The Australian TGA has published an Adverse Drugs Reactions Bulletin warning that the antipsychotics: risperidone (Risperdal), fluphenazine, haloperidol, clozapine, olanzapine (Zyprexa) and pimozide could cause life-threatening tachycardia (rapid heart rate). Other common side effects of antipsychotics include drowsiness, drop in blood pressure, hallucinations, psychosis, delirium, aggression and the inability to remain motionless.

