

Taking Antidepressants? You Might Want to Read This

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By C. Bailey-Lloyd/LadyCamelot

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According to a report by Annette Foglino of Discover Magazine, leading researchers are making landmark discoveries on genetics, the link to depression and startling revelations about antidepressants like Paxil, Prozac and Zoloft.

Per Eli Lilly and Company, Prozac purportedly works by boosting serotonin levels in the brain. Paxil CR's claims are that it can help regulate the balance of the serotonin chemical, making serotonin more readily available. Pfizer's Zoloft is supposed to help correct the chemical imbalance of serotonin in the brain as well.

However, recent findings based on a long-term project alliance among New Zealand's Dunedin School of Medicine, the University of Wisconsin and King College London, found that the 5-HTT gene (the gene responsible for regulating the chemical serotonin and message transmission in the brain) "...comes in pairs and in two sizes – long and short."¹

So what does that mean? The study found that persons having "...long genes were half as likely to suffer depression as those with at least one short gene."² Ironically, individuals who had two short genes were also found not only to suffer from depression, but also had correlating higher levels of serotonin. Because antidepressants (as the ones mentioned above) are designed to raise serotonin levels, it in fact implies that medicines such as these do not work as well as originally planned. Based on these compelling results, the seriousness of administering antidepressants to persons who already have heightened levels of serotonin could present itself with devastating outcomes. According to the FDA's Psychopharmacological Drugs Advisory Committee, an Antidepressants Update report was made on October 18, 1991 discussing the effects of certain antidepressants with regard to suicidal thoughts, acts or other violent behavior. At that point in time, the FDA had already received several reports and testimony "...from patients, advocacy groups, and other interested parties."³ It was over a decade later, (March 22, 2004) when the same FDA released a Public Health Advisory expressing that

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pharmaceutical companies place warning labels on the same medications due to "Worsening Depression and Suicidality in Patients Being Treated with Antidepressant Medications."

If the Public had only been made aware of this information back in 1991, perhaps teen killers Eric Harris and Kip Kinkel may never have committed the violent and horrific acts they did. But these two are only a sparse sample of the matrix of possibilities. Another report from Freedom Magazine relays how antidepressants accounted for over 40,000 adverse reaction reports, including 2,300 deaths (per the FDA) in 1998 alone.

With modern, conventional medicine advancing at the speed of light, the perilous repercussions are only starting to unfold. Although some medicines can be very helpful, it is dangerous to withhold information regarding the effects of mood-altering drugs. If you are taking antidepressants, talk with

your medical provider – become informed. Tomorrow may be too late.

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* Original Article can be found at <http://www.holisticjunction.com/displayarticle.cfm?ID=2462>

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Will further release of studies on Paxil force GlaxoSmithKline to settle?

By Online Lawyer Source

A study that appeared in the July 21, 2004 Journal of the American Medical Association appeared to support previous data possibly linking antidepressants to suicidal impulses. After looking at four drugs and nearly 2,800 British adults and children, there was evidence that suicidal thoughts or attempts were four times more likely during the first ten days of treatment than they were after three months.

The FDA is investigating antidepressants and issued a public health advisory asking ten drugmakers to strengthen suicide warnings on labels earlier this year, including popular drugs Paxil and Prozac. On Aug. 26 GlaxoSmithKline Plc, Europe's largest drug maker, said it settled a lawsuit filed by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who accused the drug maker last June of withholding safety data that had examined the safety of prescribing the anti-depressant medication Paxil to children. When Paxil was compared to Dothiepen users, studies found Paxil users to have 29 percent more suicidal tendencies.

One of the study's authors believes the increase in suicidal tendencies among Paxil users was statically insignificant, though it also did not eliminate the possibility of increased risk when using Paxil. The study's data offers more insight to the controversial debate over the link between antidepressants and suicide but fails to resolve any lingering questions. Some family members of people that committed suicide while taking antidepressant drugs have continued to blame the medication.

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