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HUNDREDS OF DEATHS WHILE ON ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS

Adverse drug reaction reports for antipsychotics obtained from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) show reports of a baby girl who died from Sudden Death Syndrome in 2005 after her mother was on an antipsychotic during pregnancy and the report states: "death may be drug." A 16 year old girl suffered chest pain, and abnormally increased heart rate while she was on an antipsychotic. A 3 year old boy was reported to have had abnormal thinking.

In total, there are 9532 reports involving antipsychotics reported to the TGA. Of those, 390 involved children less than 18 years and 399 of the total had a fatal outcome.

Other reports include:

- A 2 year old boy suffered hyperextension of the neck
- A 4 year old boy suffered recurrent nose bleeds and anaemia.
- Another 10 year old put on 19kg and couldn't stay awake at school and a 15 year old boy had weight gain from 60kg to 100kg.
- 13 year old girl suffered irregular heartbeat and blacked out while on Zyprexa.
- Another 13 year old boy suffered tremors, arm and leg jerkiness, rigidity of muscles, teeth chattering, body vibrations, eyes rolling in the head and mouth staying open.

Other reported side effects in children include: convulsions, face and tongue swelling, muscle twitching, amnesia, abnormal blood sugar levels, aggression, vomiting, and agitation.

The drugs in question were originally designed as a treatment for schizophrenia which was first called dementia praecox by German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin in the late 1800's, and later labeled "schizophrenia" by Swiss psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler in 1908. The first patients diagnosed with this "disease" however were later found to be suffering from a virus that caused inflammation of the brain resulting in bazaar behaviour. Psychiatry never revisited the original research of Kraepelin to see that schizophrenia was simply an undiagnosed and untreated physical problem.

Therefore, what we have today is a situation where Australian people are being prescribed dangerous antipsychotic drugs that cause what should be categorized as alarming side-effects – including death – which were originally manufactured to treat a "disease" that never existed in the first place.

The number of antipsychotic prescriptions in Australia, have increased on average 6.8% a year between 2000/01 and 2005/06.

"The dangers of these side effects could not possibly outweigh the original symptoms for which people are seeking help" says Ian White, spokesman for the Citizens Committee on Human Rights (CCHR) WA. "There is no question that many people are in need of assistance for their emotional problems, however as in the case of schizophrenia, a thorough medical examination could reveal the true cause for the problem."

Children and adults do need help and the real cause of the problem needs to be found and help matching the cause provided. This would be a far better outcome than the best possible with psychiatric drugs – being to mask the symptoms – or worse possible being death.

CCHR was founded by the Church of Scientology in 1969 to investigate psychiatric violations against human rights. For further information please contact Ian on the above numbers.