

The FDA Wants to Declare Electroshock Machines Safe Without a Safety Investigation.

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The brain is our one organ of learning and adaptability. No ‘treatment’ of the brain that damages it can be presumed to do anything but lessen that person’s ability to learn, adapt and adjust, or to recover from anything called a mental illness (none proved to be actual physical abnormalities, illnesses, sicknesses, disorders diseases).

It is difficult to understand why psychiatry so infrequently takes advantage of this fact to try to return their patients to full functional capacity in their homes, families, communities, and workplaces by the maximal utilization of non-medical, non-injurious, physical treatments such as talk therapies, education and rehabilitation, but elects, instead, electrical, surgical and chemical treatments, all of which undoubtedly damage the previously normal brains of troubled and/or troublesome, physically normal persons diagnosed with psychiatric conditions—none proven-prior to treatment—to have a physical/organic abnormality/disorder/disease of the brain. Might it be that the marketplace pursuit of the disease/disorder/chemical imbalance model and prescriptions of electro-shock therapy and the unending plethora of psychiatric drugs is far more profitable and easier to maintain—politically and in the marketplace?

As a neurological resident at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City we—neurology attending and resident physicians--were called upon by members of the department of psychiatry to assist in the administration of ECT. We had no part in the psychiatric evaluation of such patients. This seemed to me an anomalous and unhappy duty. Seizures—whether drug-suppressed or not—were produced by every such treatment, in every such patient—clear, irrefutable evidence of brain damage being caused, clear evidence that any psychiatric or mental status change was the result of brain damage induced by the ECT treatment.

Throughout the more than three decades of my neurological practice, I have encountered patients treated with ECT who had permanent erasures of parts of their memory. Think of the extent of memory loss not immediately evident in these and in all patients. For their own selfish reasons, psychiatrists may wish to call ECT and such end-results ‘therapeutic’ but they never achieve anything but to diminish adaptability in the broadest sense and cannot be called ‘therapeutic or medically justifiable.

Moreover the Psychopharmacologic Drug Advisory Committee and all committees of the FDA must cease, once and for all calling psychiatric conditions/diagnoses—those of the DSM—disorders and diseases, assuming that physical abnormalities of the brain are

present which such “treatments” normalize or return in part to normal, when such has never been proved to be the case.

In fact, recently Health Canada and at least one agent of the FDA (Dobbs) have stated that no psychiatric diagnosis/’disorder’ is an actual disease, having as it must a gross, microscopic or chemical abnormality by which to diagnose/confirm its presence--one ‘patient’ at a time.

The Nov 10, 2008, letter from Health Canada to Mr. Brian Verbeek, father of a multiply “diagnosed,” “drugged,” 12 year-old boy, reads:

“For mental/psychiatric disorders in general, including depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and ADHD, there are no confirmatory gross, microscopic or chemical abnormalities that have been validated for objective physical diagnosis.”

On 3/12/09 Donald Dobbs, Consumer Safety Officer, Division of Drug Information, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of the FDA, wrote:

“I consulted with the FDA new drug review division responsible for approving psychiatric drug products and they concurred with the response you enclosed from Health Canada. Psychiatric disorders (as Health Canada refers) are diagnosed based on a patient's presentation of symptoms that the larger psychiatric community has come to accept as real and responsive to treatment. We have nothing more to add to Health Canada's response.”

All ECT and all ECT machines should be banned for use in human beings. They are nothing but instruments of knowing, willful abuse and control of fellow human beings— for profit.