



Senate Select Committee on Mass Violence and Community Safety Hearings Questions and Comments

December 4, 2019

by Sheila Hemphill, CEO
Texas Right To Know
325.226.3683

January 31, 2020

Testimony from the December 4th [Mass Violence Hearing](https://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=45&clip_id=14969)

https://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=45&clip_id=14969

LANGUAGE: [ENGLISH](#) / [ESPAÑOL](#)



WELCOME TO THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR
THE TEXAS SENATE
NEWS, INFORMATION AND EVENTS OF THE 86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

[Lt. Governor](#) [Senators](#) [Secretary](#) [Committees](#) [News & Media](#) [Visitors](#) [For Kids](#)

Senate Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety

[Committees](#) · [Hearings and Events](#) · [Committee Archives](#) · [Notice of Assistance](#) · [Legislature Online](#) [↗](#) · [Committee Assignments \(PDF\)](#)

» [Video/Audio](#) · [Interim Charges](#)

Committee Information

CHAIR Joan Huffman	MEMBERS Donna Campbell Kelly Hancock Jane Nelson Charles Perry José Rodríguez Larry Taylor John Whitmire	TEL: (512) 463-0493 LOCATION: Sam Houston Building, 455
--	--	--

What About Peer Reviewed Research?

Publish-or-perish: Peer review and the corruption of science

Pressure on scientists to publish has led to a situation where any paper, however bad, can now be printed in a journal that claims to be peer-reviewed

Peer review is the process that decides whether your work gets published in an academic journal. It doesn't work very well any more, mainly as a result of the enormous number of papers that are being published (an estimated 1.3 million papers in 23,750 journals in 2006). There simply aren't enough competent people to do the job. The overwhelming effect of the huge (and unpaid) effort that is put into reviewing papers is to maintain a status hierarchy of journals. Any paper,

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2011/sep/05/publish-perish-peer-review-science>

Expert Testimony



**Tom Folks,
VP Government Relations
representing the Entertainment Software Association.**

“Numerous well respected authorities have found no scientific evidence to suggest any causal link between video games and real world violence.”

Minute Marker 00:03:18

Expert Testimony



**Dr. Joseph Penn,
Past President of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and
representing the Texas Medical Association.**

“Earlier there was a question regarding connection between violent media, and is there association.. I respectfully disagree with the earlier statements of no association between violent media – the American Academy of Childhood and Adolescent Psychiatry have extensive citations that there is an association with violent media and violent video games with at risk youth.”

Minute Marker 3:04:30

Who to believe?

Representative of the Entertainment Software Association

"Numerous well respected authorities have found no scientific evidence to suggest any causal link between video games and real world violence."



**Tom Folks,
VP Government Relations
representing the
Entertainment Software
Association.**

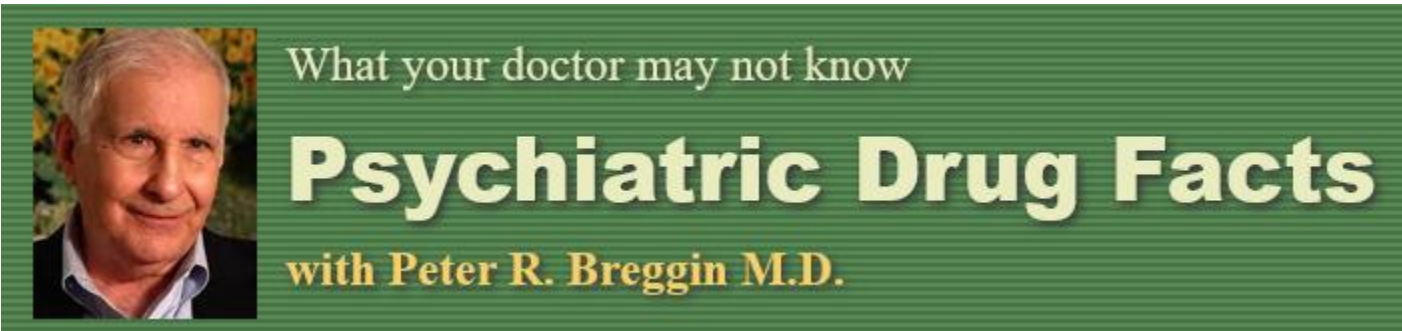
or Past President of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians Representative of the Texas Medical Association?

"I respectfully disagree with the earlier statements of no association between violent media – the American Academy of Childhood and Adolescent Psychiatry have extensive citations that there is an association with violent media and violent video games with at risk youth."



**Dr. Joseph Penn, MD
Past President of the
Texas Society of
Psychiatric Physicians
and representative of the
Texas Medical Association.**

Research Response references come from the following:
Dr. Peter R. Breggin, MD, 2000 Congressional Testimony

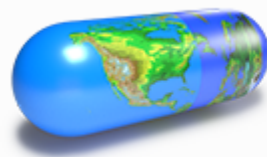


Dr. Breggin Testifies Before US Congress Re: Ritalin and ADHD

*Peter R. Breggin M.D. Testimony September 29, 2000
Before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives*

Source Note: Despite this testimony occurring in 2000, the author selected these references given that Dr. Breggin's testimony was given at a congressional hearing and neither Ritalin nor the method for diagnosing ADD and ADHD has changed in the past 20 years. This resource also demonstrates the length of time detrimental side effects of psychiatric drugs have been documented.

Research Response references come from the following: Ann Blake-Tracy Expert Witness since 1992 on Personal Injury Court Cases



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of R_x Medications

Since 1992, Ann Blake-Tracy, has specialized in adverse reactions to serotonergic medications such as Prozac, Sarafem, Zoloft, Paxil, Luvox, Celexa, Lexapro, Effexor, Serzone, Remeron, Pristiq, Anafranil, Fen-Phen, Redux 2 and Meridia

- as well as the new atypical antipsychotics Zyprexa, Risperdal, Geodon, Seroquel and Abilify (all antidepressants),
- and also pain killers and the new menopause medication Brisdelle, which is nothing more than the antidepressant, Paxil, at half the dose.

Source Note: Given the abundance of peer-review reports that have countering opinions, the author sought out individuals who serve as expert witnesses in court cases regarding injury from psychiatric drugs since their evidence and statements are made under oath.

Personal Injury lawsuits stopped once FDA issues Black Box Warnings in 2004



FDA “Black Box” Warning Label

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires the following “black box” warning on all methylphenidate drugs, including Ritalin, which means that medical studies indicate Ritalin carries a significant risk of serious, or even life-threatening, adverse effects.

WARNING

RITALIN-SR IS A FEDERALLY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (CII) BECAUSE IT CAN BE ABUSED OR LEAD TO **DEPENDENCE**. KEEP RITALIN-SR IN A SAFE PLACE TO PREVENT MISUSE AND ABUSE. SELLING OR GIVING AWAY RITALIN-SR MAY HARM OTHERS, AND IS AGAINST THE LAW.

TELL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAVE (OR HAVE A FAMILY HISTORY OF) EVER ABUSED OR BEEN DEPENDENT ON ALCOHOL, PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES OR STREET DRUGS.

FDA Public Health Advisory

On September 14, 2004 the FDA added a Black Box Warning in regard to antidepressants & suicidality in those under age 18.

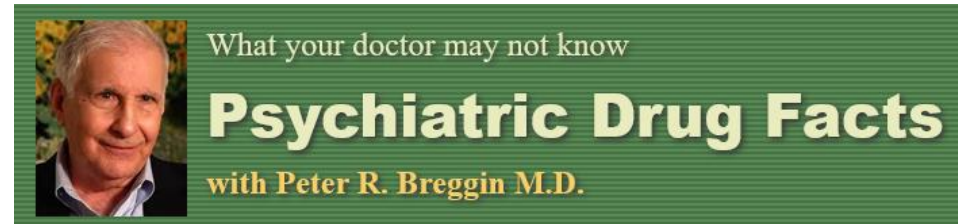
... following symptoms: Acting aggressive, being angry, or violent & acting on dangerous impulses.

Once the “Black Box Warning” labels were issued, the statute of limitations began and once statute of limitations runs out, injured patients or victims cannot sue pharmaceutical companies and can only sue physicians.

In 2007, malpractice claims for pain and suffering were capped at \$250,000 and many patients cannot find an attorney to take their case as just cost for expert witnesses can exceed \$100,000.

Research Response:

How is ADD diagnosed?



IV. The Educational Effect of Diagnosing Children with ADHD

It is important for the Education Committee to understand that the ADD/ADHD diagnosis was developed specifically for the purpose of justifying the use of drugs to subdue the behaviors of children in the classroom. The content of the diagnosis in the 1994 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association shows that it is specifically aimed at suppressing unwanted behaviors in the classroom.

The diagnosis is divided into three types: hyperactivity, impulsivity, and inattention.

Under hyperactivity, the first two (and most powerful) criteria are "often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat" and "often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected." Clearly, these two "symptoms" are nothing more nor less than the behaviors most likely to cause disruptions in a large, structured classroom.

Under impulsivity, the first criteria is "often blurts out answers before questions have been completed" and under inattention, the first criteria is "often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities." Once again, the diagnosis itself, formulated over several decades, leaves no question concerning its purpose: to redefine disruptive classroom behavior into a disease. The ultimate aim is to justify the use of medication to suppress or control the behaviors.

From the
Diagnostic and
Statistical Manual
of Mental Disorders,
DSM-5

Hyperactive/impulsive type – six (or five for people over 17 years) of the following symptoms occur frequently:

- Fidgets with or taps hands or feet, or squirms in seat.
- Not able to stay seated (in classroom, workplace).
- Runs about or climbs where it is inappropriate.
- Unable to play or do leisure activities quietly.
- Always “on the go,” as if driven by a motor.
- Talks too much.
- Blurts out an answer before a question has been finished (for instance may finish people’s sentences, can’t wait to speak in conversations).
- Has difficulty waiting his or her turn, such as while waiting in line.
- Interrupts or intrudes on others (for instance, cuts into conversations, games or activities, or starts using other people’s things without permission). Older teens and adults may take over what others are doing.

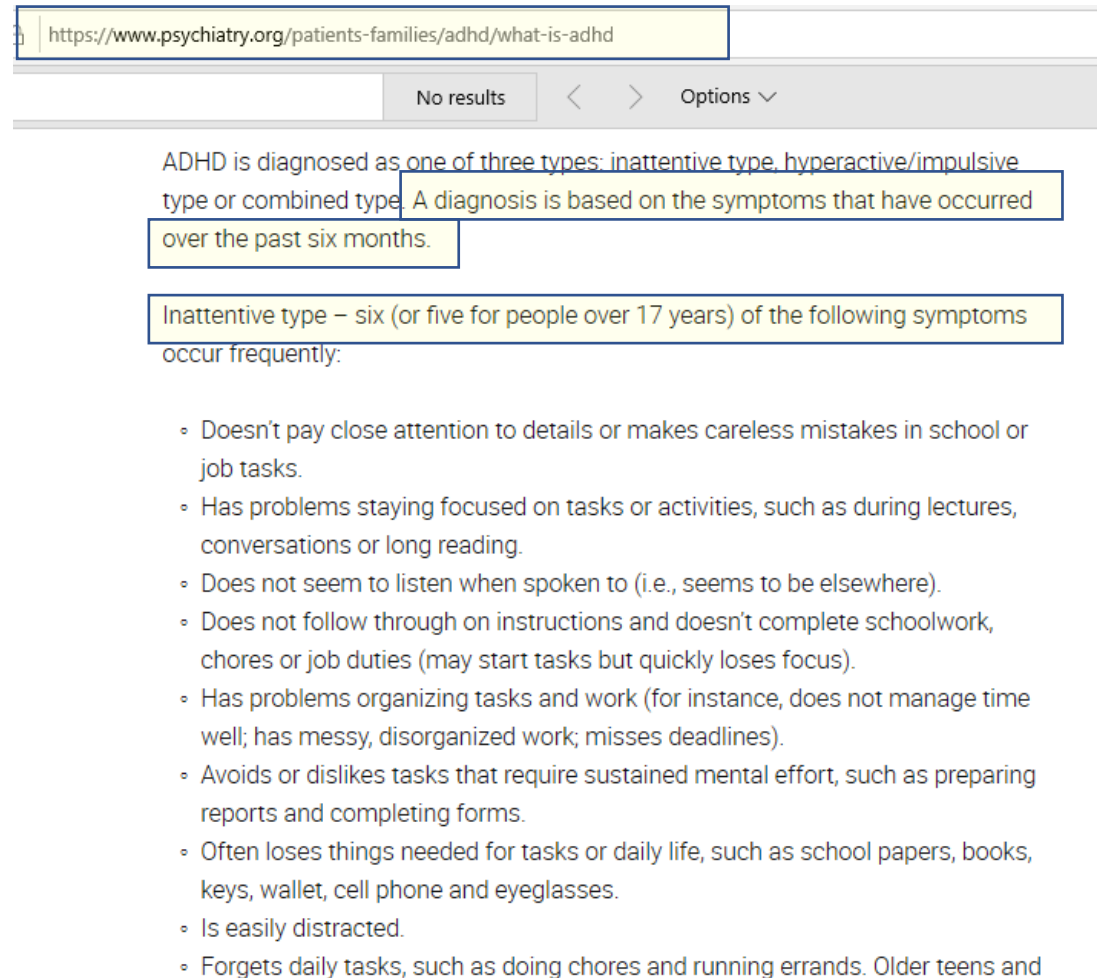
Has child been checked for
pin worms?

Movement of large muscles
have been linked to ability
to learn.

There is no lab test to diagnose ADHD. Diagnosis involves gathering information from parents, teachers and others, filling out checklists and having a medical evaluation (including vision and hearing screening) to rule out other medical problems. The symptoms are not the result of person being defiant or hostile or unable to understand a task or instructions.

Diagnosis of Psychiatric Conditions like ADD, ADHD are often times based upon subjective observation.

From the
Diagnostic and
Statistical Manual
of Mental Disorders,
DSM-5



https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/adhd/what-is-adhd

No results < > Options ▾

ADHD is diagnosed as one of three types: inattentive type, hyperactive/impulsive type or combined type. A diagnosis is based on the symptoms that have occurred over the past six months.

Inattentive type – six (or five for people over 17 years) of the following symptoms occur frequently:

- Doesn't pay close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in school or job tasks.
- Has problems staying focused on tasks or activities, such as during lectures, conversations or long reading.
- Does not seem to listen when spoken to (i.e., seems to be elsewhere).
- Does not follow through on instructions and doesn't complete schoolwork, chores or job duties (may start tasks but quickly loses focus).
- Has problems organizing tasks and work (for instance, does not manage time well; has messy, disorganized work; misses deadlines).
- Avoids or dislikes tasks that require sustained mental effort, such as preparing reports and completing forms.
- Often loses things needed for tasks or daily life, such as school papers, books, keys, wallet, cell phone and eyeglasses.
- Is easily distracted.
- Forgets daily tasks, such as doing chores and running errands. Older teens and



Expert Testimony

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

Past President of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and representing the Texas Medical Association.

“How many of the school shooters were on psych meds? Out of 2 of 24 secondary shooters (13 College 11 Adult shooters) only 2 were taking psych meds ... 1 had stopped. Only 6 of the 24 were on psych meds... Majority was not on psych meds.”

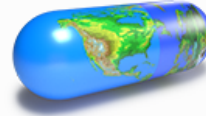
Minute Marker 2:40:10



Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

"Psychotropic medications do not cause individual or mass violence"

SSRIstories.net



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of Rx Medications

SSRIstories



Collection of over 5000+ news stories with the full media article available, mainly criminal in nature, that have appeared in the media (newspapers, TV, scientific journals) or that were part of FDA testimony in either 1991, 2004 or 2006, in which antidepressants are mentioned or in some cases family, friends, law enforcement or coroners have verified the presence of an antidepressant in a perpetrator.

48+ School Shootings/Incidents Involving SSRIs

Most of the stories on this site describe events that occurred after the year 2000. The increase in online news material and the efficiency of search engines has greatly increased the ability to track stories. Even these 5000 documented stories only represent the tip of an iceberg since most stories do not make it into the media. There are 68 cases of bizarre behavior, 48 school shootings/incidents, 52 road rage tragedies, 12 air rage incidents, 44 postpartum depression cases, over 600 murders (homicides), over 180 murder-suicides and other acts of violence including workplace violence on this site.

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

"Psychotropic medications do not cause individual or mass violence"

Who to believe?

**Past President of the Texas Society of
Psychiatric Physicians and Representative
of the Texas Medical Association**

or

Researcher / Trial Expert Witness

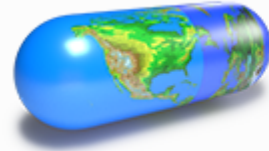


**Dr. Joseph Penn,
Past President of
the Texas Society of
Psychiatric
Physicians and
representing the
Texas Medical
Association.**



**Ann Blake-Tracy
Researcher /
Expert Witness**

She has testified multiple times before the FDA and congressional subcommittee members on antidepressants. May of 2013 she testified, along with other experts, before the Danish Parliament on the brain damage produced by antidepressants.



International Coalition for Drug Awareness
Educating about the dangers of R_x Medications

Preda and Bowers² reported in the year 2001 that over 200,000 people a year enter a general hospital with a diagnosed antidepressant-associated mania and/or psychosis.

FDA Public Health Advisory

On March 22, 2004 the FDA published a Public Health Advisory that reiterates several of these side effects and states (in part) “Anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility, impulsivity, akathisia (severe restlessness), hypomania, and mania have been reported in adult and pediatric patients being treated with antidepressants for major depressive disorder as well as for other indications, both psychiatric and non-psychiatric.”

Expert Testimony

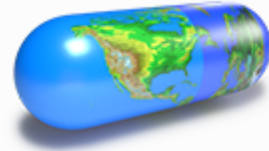


Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

**Past President of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and
representing the Texas Medical Association.**

*“Psychotropic medications do not cause
individual or mass violence”*

Minute Marker 2:39:10



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of R_x Medications

Preda and Bowers² reported in the year 2001 that over 200,000 people a year enter a general hospital with a diagnosed antidepressant-associated mania and/or psychosis.

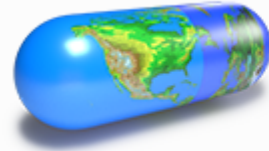
FDA Public Health Advisory

On March 22, 2004 the FDA published a Public Health Advisory that reiterates several of these side effects and states (in part) "Anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility, impulsivity, akathisia (severe restlessness), hypomania, and mania have been reported in adult and pediatric patients being treated with antidepressants for major depressive disorder as well as for other indications, both psychiatric and non-psychiatric."



Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

“Psychotropic medications do not cause individual or mass violence”



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of R_x Medications

FDA Public Health Advisory

On September 14, 2004 the FDA added a Black Box Warning in regard to antidepressants & suicidality in those under age 18.

On September 14, 2004 the FDA mandated that pharmacies provide to all parents or guardians for those younger than 18 an *Antidepressant Patient Medication Guide*. This guide reads (in part) “Call healthcare provider right away if you or your family member has any of the following symptoms: Acting aggressive, being angry, or violent & acting on dangerous impulses.” This *Antidepressant Patient Medication Guide* also states “Never stop an antidepressant medicine without first talking to a healthcare provider. Stopping an antidepressant medicine suddenly can cause other symptoms.” (Click *Links* button at bottom of this page for a direct link to this FDA Antidepressant Guide.)

On December 13, 2006, the Black Box Warning for suicidality was updated to include those under age 25. The Black Box Warning is included in the insert to the drugs and in the Physicians’ Desk reference.

181 Texas Cases of homicide or suicide from 1989 – 2011

Excerpts from SSRlstores.net of over 5000 news articles



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of Rx Medications

	<u>What</u>	<u>Drug</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Additional</u>
181	Suicide	Med For Depression	11/7/2011	Texas	Woman Drives Her Car Into Lake
1	Worsening Condition	Antidepressants & Antipsychotics	9/30/2011	Texas	Teen Girl's Cutting & Self Harm Increased While on Meds: Decreased After Discontinuing Meds
2	Arson	Med For Depression	9/20/2011	Texas	Woman Sets Five Fires to Five Different Buildings
3	Suicide	Med For Depression	8/10/2011	Texas	Man Jumps to his Death From Galleria Mall in Dallas Onto Ice Skating Rink
4	Suicide	Med For Depression	8/8/2011	Texas	Police Officer Commits Suicide
5	Murder	Antidepressants	6/16/2011	Texas	Man Kills Wife After Doubling His Dose of Depression Med
6	Murder	Med For Depression	6/6/2011	Texas	Man Kills Sheriff's Deputy
7	Shooting	Wellbutrin & Paxil	5/28/2011	Texas	Man Shoots At Police Station Building & Windows: Runs Into Woods & Kills Self: Possible Withdrawal
8	Violence/Death	Antidepressants Plus Ritalin	5/25/2011	Texas	Woman With Scissors Lunges at Police: Is Fatally Shot
9	Suicide	Med For Depression	4/9/2011	Texas	Soldier in Marines Who Was Active in Suicide Prevention Kills Himself
10	Shooting	Med For Depression	4/8/2011	Texas	Woman Shoots Self in Leg: Blames Two Non-Existent Intruders
11	Arson	Prozac & Chantix	2/16/2011	Texas	20 Year Old Sets 10 Churches on Fire: Receives Life Sentence
12	Shooting	Prozac & Alcohol	2/4/2011	Texas	Man Given 7 Year Sentence For Shooting at Police
13	Grand Mal Seizure	Antidepressants	2/4/2011	Texas	Famous Drummer Prescribed a Dangerous Combo of Antidepressants that Led to a Grand Mal Seizure
14	Suicide	Celexa & Wellbutrin	1/3/2011	Texas	12 Year Old Boy Commits Suicide
15	Suicide	Antidepressants	12/19/2010	Texas	Husband Commits Suicide: Wife Writes About It In Her Christmas Card
16	Suicide	Med For Depression	11/26/2010	Texas	Man Commits Suicide: Brother Writes About His Death
17	Death	Antidepressant	11/9/2010	Texas	Woman in Psychiatric Hospital for 7 Days Given 14 Different Meds in 4 Days
18	Over Medicated	17 Different Medications	10/27/2010	Texas	Texas Foster Children Over Medicated: 18 Year Old Leaves Foster Care & Meds: Can Now Run Again
19	Workplace Violence/Murder	Antidepressants, Antipsychotics & Other Psychotropic Drugs	10/12/2010	Texas	Librarian Shoots Fellow Librarian Inside Library
20		Med For Depression			

181 Texas Cases of homicide or suicide from 1989 – 2011

Excerpts from SSRlstores.net of over 5000 news articles

160	Murder	Prozac	1/29/1999 Texas	Policeman's Son Kills Two Border Agents
161	Murder-Suicide	Prozac	1/6/1998 Texas	18 Year Old Girl Kills Boyfriend & Self
162	Suicide	Prozac	2/19/1997 Texas	Woman Slashes Self ove 100 Time with Stitch Remover
163	Stand-Off With Police	Antidepressants	12/24/1996 Texas	Stand-Off Ends In Death
164	Spending Spree	Prozac	12/18/1996 Texas	Woman Goes on Spending Spree: Feels Lack of Guilt for Spending So Much
165	Suicide	Antidepressants	12/1/1996 Texas	Man Deliberately Jumps in Front of Car
166	Murder	Antidepressant	5/11/1996 Texas	17 Year Old Girl Murders Her Father
167	Bank Robbery	Paxil Withdrawal	3/24/1996 Texas	Ex-Fire Chief Robs Bank: Bizarre Behavior
168	Murder Attempt/Killed By Police	Prozac	11/5/1995 Texas	Fellow Police Officers Forced To Kill One Of Their Own
169	Murder-Suicide	Med For Depression	1/7/1995 Texas	Woman Kills her Husband and Herself
170	Murder	Med For Depression	9/13/1994 Texas	Man Strangles Wife: Had Been on 17 Different Meds for Depression
171	Murder-Suicide	Antidepressants	9/10/1994 Texas	Man Kills Mother, Father, Ex-Wife & Self
172	Vehicular Manslaughter	Prozac	7/31/1994 Texas	Man Given Ten Years in Prison: Never Drank Liquor Until He Took Prozac
173	Suicide Attempt	Prozac	2/7/1994 Texas	Woman Is Brain Damaged from Suicide Attempt
174	Suicide Attempt	Prozac	1/11/1994 Texas	Woman Attempts Suicide: Petitions for Warning Labels on Prozac
175	Suicide Attempt	Prozac	1/11/1994 Texas	17 Year Old Girl Attempts Suicide: Joins Group to Petition for Prozac Warning
176	Hostage Situation	Med For Depression	12/7/1993 Texas	Man Threatens Life of Supervisor at Work & Holds Her Hostage
177	Suicide	Prozac	6/15/1993 Texas	Rancher Commits Suicide: Lawsuit
178	School Shooting	Antidepressants	9/20/1992 Texas	**Man, Angry Over Daughter's Report Card, Shoots 14 Rounds inside Elementary School
179	Murder-Suicide	Med For Depression	8/28/1990 Texas	Man Kills Wife & Himself
180	Suicide	Prozac	1/1/1990 Texas	Lawsuit: Questions about Medwatch
181	Suicide	Prozac	3/16/1989 Texas	21 Year Old Woman Shoots Herself



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of Rx Medications

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

"Psychotropic medications do not cause individual or mass violence"

Who to believe?

**Past President of the Texas Society of
Psychiatric Physicians and Representative
of the Texas Medical Association**

or

Researcher / Trial Expert Witness



**Dr. Joseph Penn,
Past President of
the Texas Society of
Psychiatric
Physicians and
representing the
Texas Medical
Association.**



**Ann Blake-Tracy
Researcher /
Expert Witness**

She has testified multiple times before the FDA and congressional subcommittee members on antidepressants. May of 2013 she testified, along with other experts, before the Danish Parliament on the brain damage produced by antidepressants.



Expert Testimony

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

**Past President of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and
representing the Texas Medical Association.**

*“There’s a misconceptions that psych meds cause
people to be violent, aggressive or assaultive.”*

Minute Marker 2:39:15

"I am alarmed at the monster that John Hopkins neuroscientist Solomon Snyder and I created when we discovered the simply binding assay for drug receptors."

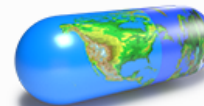


Dr. Candace B. Pert, PhD (1946 – 2013)

Candace Pert, the discoverer of the opiate receptor and drugs to treat mental illness, the binding assay for drug receptors which made Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI).

Dr. Candace Pert was an internationally recognized neuroscientist and pharmacologist who published over 250 research articles. She was a significant contributor to the emergence of Mind-Body Medicine as an area of legitimate scientific research in the 1980's, earning her the title of "The Mother of Psychoneuroimmunology"

Board member the



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of Rx Medications

High Profile SSRI Victims



At the time Brynn Hartman shot-and-killed Hartman, she was drunk and had taken cocaine. In the lead-up to the incident, Brynn was also taking Zoloft, a powerful anti-depressant. Greg Omdahl, told [ABC](#) that his sister suffered from anxiety. Omdahl would go on to file a lawsuit against Pfizer, the manufacturer, as well as the doctor who prescribed the drug to Brynn Hartman. Omdahl maintained that neither the manufacturer nor the doctor had made his sister aware of the possible suicidal side-effects of the drug.

Since 1992, SSRI related court cases have taken place around the world. Some of the more high profile include:

- murder/suicide of comedian Phil Hartman and his wife Brynn,
- Anna Nicole Smith's son Daniel's death
- the Columbine & Red Lake School shootings,
- Andrea Yates – the Texas mother who drowned her five children,
- the Atlanta Day Trader,
- Princess Di's death,
- the murder/suicide of the royal family of Nepal, etc.



International Coalition for Drug Awareness

Educating about the dangers of Rx Medications

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

"There's a misconceptions that psych meds cause people to be violent, aggressive or assaultive."

Who to believe?

**Past President of the Texas Society of
Psychiatric Physicians and Representative
of the Texas Medical Association**

or

**Researcher / SSRI Discoverer
"The Mother of Psychoneuroimmunology"**



**Dr. Joseph Penn, MD
Past President of the
Texas Society of
Psychiatric Physicians
and representing the
Texas Medical
Association.**



Dr. Candace B. Pert, PhD

**the discoverer of the binding assay for drug
receptors which made
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors
possible (SSRI)**



Senator Charles Perry

Is ADD ... medication considered psychotropic?

Minute Marker 3:05:50

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

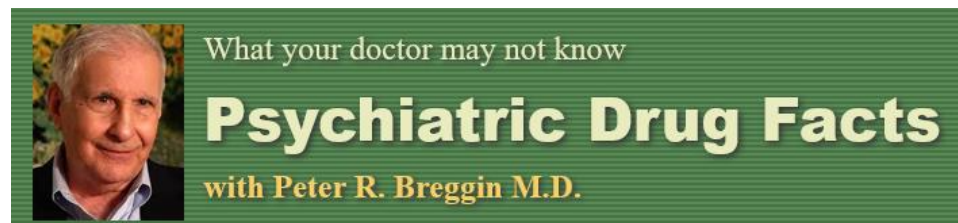
Response - paraphrased:



... the treatment is “the gold standard” is stimulant medications – some kids don’t tolerate stimulant medication, they develop tics, throat clearing, lose weight, trouble sleeping, etc.

School based interventions – co-morbid learning disability, learning disorder – parents put children on a stimulates at 3,4,5 years for a baby sitter ...
a lot of kids didn’t need to be on the meds.

Research Response:



Advocates of ADHD and stimulant drugs have claimed that ADHD is associated with changes in the brain. In fact, both the NIH Consensus Development Conference (1998) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (2000) report on ADHD have confirmed that there is no known biological basis for ADHD. Any brain abnormalities in these children are almost certainly caused by prior exposure to psychiatric medication.



Senator Charles Perry

“Do psychotropics rewire the brain or just subdue the brain or what does it do?”

Minute Marker 3:07:27

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

Response - paraphrased:



“To be honest, we don’t really know the exact mechanism of how psychiatric drugs work.”

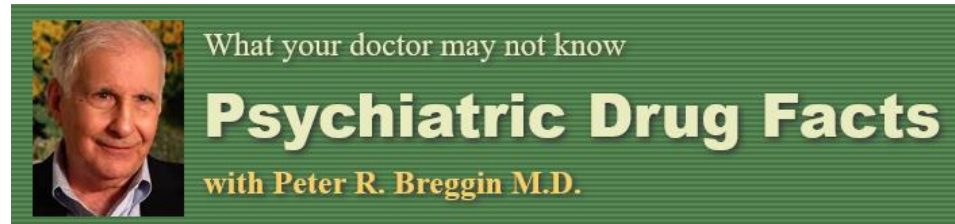
Since the 1950’s there have been theories of how they work.
They effect dopamine, norepinephrine...



Senator Charles Perry'

"Do psychotropics rewire the brain or just subdue the brain or what does it do?"

Research Response:



III. The Dangers of Stimulant Medication

Stimulant medications are far more dangerous than most practitioners and published experts seem to realize. I summarized many of these effects in my scientific presentation on the mechanism of action and adverse effects of stimulant drugs to the November 1998 NIH Consensus Development Conference on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and then published more detailed analyses in several scientific sources (see bibliography).

Animals and humans cross-addict to methylphenidate, amphetamine and cocaine. These drugs affect the same three neurotransmitter systems and the same parts of the brain. It should have been no surprise when Nadine Lambert presented data at the Consensus Development Conference (attached) indicating that prescribed stimulant use in childhood predisposes the individual to cocaine abuse in young adulthood.



Senator Charles Perry

“If someone is on these for 18 – 20 years ... for someone who quits taking them, do you know if is it a worse result than if they had ever been taken them?”

Minute Marker 3:07:50

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD
Response - paraphrased:



Your body never builds them to a steady state
...stimulates need to be taken 1 to 3 times a day,
the body do not never gets to “steady state”.

Every day you’re going off a stimulant ... there’s other medicine to treat ADHD.

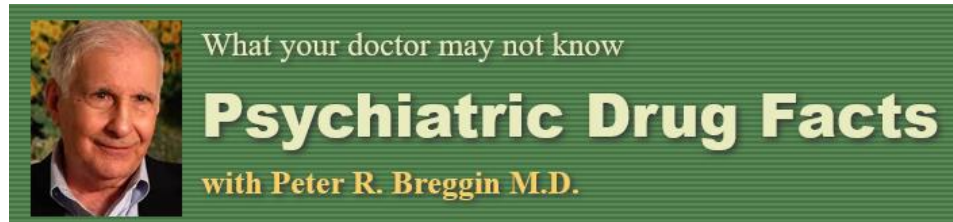
... To answer your question Senator, I’m sorry what was your question?



Senator Charles Perry

"If someone is on these for 18 – 20 years ... for someone who quits taking them, do you know if it is a worse result than if they had ever been taken them?"

Research Response:



Furthermore, their addiction and abuse potential is based on the capacity of these drugs to drastically and permanently change brain chemistry. Studies of amphetamine show that short-term clinical doses produce brain cell death. Similar studies of methylphenidate show long-lasting and sometimes permanent changes in the biochemistry of the brain.



Senator Charles Perry

“Is coming off of the drugs been worse ... is the effective of being off more traumatic than if I had never been on them?”

Minute Marker 3:08:46

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD

Response - paraphrased:



It would depend on the medication and the dosage.
We try to do medication holidays – **some medications like Prozac and Zoloft they have withdrawal phenomenon, that’s not been reported.**

Senator no, Psychotropics are not the culprit or the etiology.

"Is coming off of the drugs been worse ... is the effective of being off more traumatic than if I had never been on them?"

Research Response:

Table I: Harmful Effects Caused by Ritalin, Dexedrine, Adderall and Similar Stimulants

Cardio-vascular Function	Brain and Mind Function	Gastro- intestinal Function	Endocrine andMetabolic Function	Other Functions	Withdrawal and Rebound Reactions
Palpitations Tachycardia Hypertension Cardiac arrhythmia Chest pain Cardiac arrest	Mania, psychosis, hallucinations Agitation, anxiety, nervousness Insomnia Irritability, hostility, aggression Depression, emotional sensitivity, easy crying, social withdrawal Drowsiness, 'dopey', reduced alertness Confusion, mental impairment (cognition and learning) Zombie-like (robotic) behavior with loss of emotional spontaneity Obsessive-compulsive behavior Convulsions Dyskinesias, tics, Tourette's Nervous habits (e.g. picking at skin, pulling hair)	Anorexia Nausea, vomiting, bad taste Stomach ache, cramps Dry mouth Constipation, diarrhea Abnormal liver function tests	Pituitary dysfunction, including growth hormone and prolactin disruption Weight loss Growth suppression Growth retardation Disturbed sexual function	Blurred vision Headache Dizziness Hyper-sensitivity reaction with rash, conjunctivitis, or hives	Insomnia Evening crash Depression Over-activity and irritability Rebound worsening of ADHD-like symptoms



What your doctor may not know

Psychiatric Drug Facts

with Peter R. Breggin M.D.



Senator Charles Perry

... we really don't know what's the long term effects of what that medication did. – I think we are being naive if we say it's benign and has no impact at all. The truth is, we really don't know.

Minute Marker 3:10:05

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD
Response - paraphrased:



Every medication has side effects.

We tend to over medicate kids but we may be under medicating kids.

They should be a risk and benefit assessment –

School shooters may have been depressed or other form of mental health issues.

“...we really don’t know what’s the long term effects of what that medication did. – I think we are being naive if we say it’s benign and has no impact at all. The truth is, we really don’t know.”

Research Response:

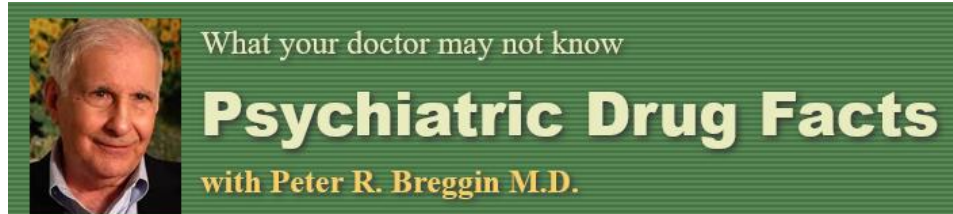


Table II: Harmful Stimulant Effects Commonly Misidentified as ‘Therapeutic’ or ‘Beneficial’ for Children Diagnosed with ADHD.

Obsessive Compulsive Effects

Compulsive persistence at meaningless activities (called stereotypical or perseverative behavior)
Increased obsessive compulsive behavior (e.g., repeating chores endlessly and ineffectively)
Mental rigidity (called cognitive perseveration)
Inflexible thinking
Overly narrow or excessive focusing

Social Withdrawal Effects

Socially withdrawn and isolated
General dampened social behaviour
Reduced communicating or socializing
Decreased responsiveness to parents and other children
Increased solitary play and diminished overall play

Behaviorally Suppressive Effects

Compliant in structured environments; socially inhibited, passive and submissive
Sombre, subdued, apathetic, lethargic, drowsy, dopey, dazed, and tired
Bland, emotionally flat, humorless, not smiling, depressed, and sad with frequent crying
Lacking in initiative or spontaneity, curiosity, surprise or pleasure



Senator Charles Perry

In the scenario of over medication do we know the impact for that kid for the next 40 years after they have been medicated for 20 years, do we know the effect?

Minute Marker 3:11:15

Dr. Joseph Penn, MD
Response - paraphrased:



Dr. Joseph Penn, MD – It's a thorny issues, ADHD use to be a childhood issue – ADHD lasts until adulthood.

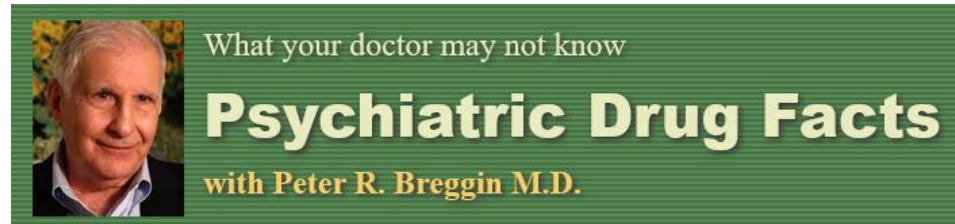
Pharmaceutical companies are pushing adult ADHD.



Senator Charles Perry

“In the scenario of over medication do we know the impact for that kid for the next 40 years after they have been medicated for 20 years, do we know the effect?”

Research Response:



These drugs also endanger the cardiovascular system and commonly produce many adverse mental effects, including depression.

Too often stimulants become gateway drugs to illicit drugs. As noted, the use of prescription stimulants predisposes children to cocaine and nicotine abuse in young adulthood.

Stimulants even more often become gateway drugs to additional psychiatric medications. Stimulant-induced over-stimulation, for example, is often treated with addictive or dangerous sedatives, while stimulant-induced depression is often treated with dangerous, unapproved antidepressants. As the child's emotional control breaks down due to medication effects, mood stabilizers may be added. Eventually, these children end up on four or five psychiatric drugs at once and a diagnosis of bipolar disorder by the age of eight or ten.



Senator Charles Perry

“I’m trying to make a point - We don’t know what we don’t know.”

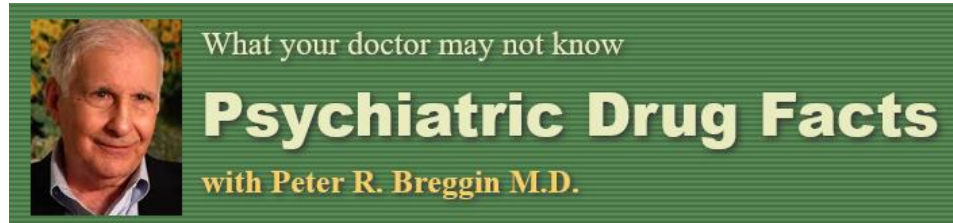
Minute Marker 3:12:05

“When it impacts these people that have these events... we really can’t identify one specific area ...

Everyone of us has the potential of doing something bad.

We’re just really fortunate that we’re talking about 3,000 people out of 30 million that could potentially have those risk factors. ”

Research Response:



In my private practice, children can usually be taken off all psychiatric drugs with great improvement in their psychological life and behavior, provided that the parents or other interested adults are willing to learn new approaches to disciplining and caring for the children. Consultations with the school, a change of teachers or schools, and home schooling can also help to meet the needs of children without resort to medication.



Thank you for your time to review this presentation.

Please support Texas Right To Know's efforts to urge legislators to require clinical testing for physical root causes that manifest as psychiatric dysfunction prior to the prescribing of psychiatric drugs paid for by Medicaid.

If you have information regarding innovations in therapies, labs, devices, apps, and/or programs to help with psychiatric dysfunction and improvements for overall medical conditions and illnesses, please contact:

Sheila Hemphill

325.226.3683

info@texasrighttoknow.com



Please support Texas Right To Know's efforts to urge legislators to require clinical testing for physical root causes that manifest as psychiatric dysfunction prior to the prescribing of psychiatric drugs paid for by Medicaid.

If you have information regarding innovations in therapies, labs, devices, apps, and/or programs to help with psychiatric dysfunction and improvements for overall medical conditions and illnesses, please contact:

Sheila Hemphill

325.226.3683 info@texasrighttoknow.com