

The Black Dog Video

João Pedro Alexandre Coelho

December 4th, 2024

v0.1

Abstract

We observed bad communication practices in videos released by official health authorities aimed at raising awareness about depression and its impact on individuals' lives. While the intent of these videos is advertised to be positive, the execution—such as monotone voice overs and dull visual presentations—undermines their purpose. In fact, such delivery methods may unintentionally contribute to depressive states in viewers, including those who were not previously affected.

This raises critical questions about the motives behind these strategies. It is worth considering whether these authorities may have been compromised, potentially perpetuating depression to drive the sale of medications. Moreover, we highlight in this paper that many drugs marketed as "antidepressants" function as central nervous system (CNS) depressants. This crucial detail is not adequately communicated to patients, raising ethical concerns and suggesting the possibility of intentional malpractice, if not outright criminality, in the psychiatric prescription process.

CNS depressant medications impair cognitive functioning and social participation, placing individuals at existential risk (in some cases even making them dependent on others to take care of their daily routines and **handling their money**). Furthermore, we identify a harmful feedback loop wherein these medications are exacerbating depressive symptoms, leading to higher dosages and a worsening cycle of dependency, decline and dependency.

Introduction

Depression is one of the most prevalent mental health disorders worldwide, affecting millions of individuals across all ages, genders, and cultural backgrounds. Defined by persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and a loss of interest in activities once enjoyed,

depression can have a profound impact on an individual's daily life, work, and relationships. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 300 million people are currently living with depression, making it the leading cause of disability globally. The disorder does not discriminate, as it affects individuals from various walks of life, although certain demographic factors can influence its prevalence.

Women are more likely to be diagnosed with depression than men, with studies showing a man-to-woman ratio of approximately 1:2, with women experiencing higher rates throughout their lifespan. Depression also tends to manifest more frequently during adolescence and early adulthood, with the highest prevalence typically seen between the ages of 18 and 29. However, the disorder can occur at any stage of life, from childhood to older adulthood, affecting individuals in ways that range from mild and episodic to severe and chronic.

The history of depression as a recognized medical condition has evolved significantly over the centuries. Once considered a moral failing or a consequence of poor character, depression has gradually come to be understood as a complex psychological and physiological disorder. With advancements in psychology, psychiatry, and neuroscience, the scientific community has come to recognize depression as a multifactorial condition, influenced by genetics, environment, and brain chemistry. Over the past century, the treatment of depression has shifted from primarily psychoanalytic and behavioral therapies to the widespread use of pharmacological interventions.

The emergence of antidepressants, particularly selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and other classes of medications, has dramatically altered the landscape of depression treatment. Introduced in the 1980s, SSRIs and other antidepressants were marketed as revolutionary solutions for those struggling with depression, promising to restore chemical balance in the brain and alleviate symptoms without the severe side effects associated with earlier drugs. The global rise in the prescription of antidepressants reflects a growing trend among health professionals to rely on pharmaceutical interventions as a primary means of addressing mental health issues. In some countries, antidepressant prescriptions have increased by over 300% in the past two decades, highlighting the expanding role of these medications in treating depression.

Global health authorities, such as the WHO, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the American Psychiatric Association (APA), have played pivotal roles in shaping the diagnosis and treatment of depression. These organizations have developed diagnostic criteria, treatment guidelines, and public awareness campaigns aimed at combating the

stigma associated with mental illness. Despite these efforts, however, concerns have arisen regarding the widespread use of antidepressants and the influence of the pharmaceutical industry on treatment practices. Critics argue that the push for antidepressant prescriptions may be driven by corporate interests, with pharmaceutical companies capitalizing on the growing demand for quick and accessible solutions to mental health issues. These concerns are compounded by the fact that many antidepressant medications are not as effective as advertised, and their side effects—including cognitive impairment, emotional blunting, and increased risk of suicide—are often downplayed or inadequately discussed with patients.

In recent years, an emerging body of research has called into question the long-term efficacy and safety of antidepressants, particularly in relation to their potential to worsen depressive symptoms and contribute to a cycle of dependency. This has raised important ethical and clinical questions about the role of the pharmaceutical industry in shaping treatment protocols and influencing the choices made by both health professionals and patients. As the prevalence of depression continues to rise, it is crucial to critically examine the forces at play in the global treatment of this condition, and to explore alternatives that prioritize patient well-being over corporate profit.

Emergence of a Conflict

Oftentimes, “awareness” videos are published in the media to raise attention to the problem of depression. For example, one famous video from the World Health Organization (WHO) about depression can be found in the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiCrniLQGYc>

Just by watching the initial seconds, one is overwhelmed with negative feelings. An untrained person may not realize this situation. But, once the problem is exposed, the issue becomes obvious. The tone of the message is wrong, the imagery is hopeless and depressing. So, a video aimed at raising awareness for depression is actually inducing a depressive state in the viewer. Why is that? For example, we were just now happily watching the Intro From Baywatch on Youtube and became sad just by watching this stupid WHO video (I needed to because we have to write this paper). So, the solution is not to ask for help like they say in the video. It is also not to try to take medication, which they claim “may help some” (what happens to the other ones taking medication? They die? They get into a vegetative state?). The solution was simple and efficient: close the tab of the stupid official

video from WHO on Youtube and watch the Baywatch video again. Voilà. Now we are cheerful again and angry at the same time. The following is the Baywatch video by the way. Try it out for yourself. Which one works best to alleviate your sad state?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCKhCjT6qpU>

You can fantasise about the video. Imagine being one of the baywatchers. Put the fucking black dog there running in the sand and see what happens. Another exercise. Don't open the first youtube video again, but instead download it using a third-party youtube downloader (in case WHO removes it from the platform) and transcribe the video into text using a transcription software. Now, recite the same text but replace "depression" with "big regression". And the dog's name is now "Sherlock Homes". Also, say the text in a discoordinated way, with highs and lows in your pitch, some pauses, etc.. Which one do you prefer?

Depression Medications

Anyway, if you didn't buy my previous humoristic analysis and still prefer the medication path, here are some tools you use (and their **common** side effects).

1. **Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)**
 - **Fluoxetine** (Prozac)
 - **Sertraline** (Zoloft)
 - **Citalopram** (Celexa)
 - **Escitalopram** (Lexapro)
 - **Paroxetine** (Paxil)
 - **Fluvoxamine** (Luvox)
2. **Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)**
 - **Venlafaxine** (Effexor XR)
 - **Duloxetine** (Cymbalta)
 - **Desvenlafaxine** (Pristiq)
 - **Levomilnacipran** (Fetzima)
3. **Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs)**
 - **Amitriptyline**
 - **Nortriptyline** (Pamelor)
 - **Imipramine** (Tofranil)
 - **Doxepin**

- **Clomipramine** (Anafranil)
- **Desipramine** (Norpramin)
- **Trimipramine** (Surmontil)
- 4. **Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)**
 - **Phenelzine** (Nardil)
 - **Tranylcypromine** (Parnate)
 - **Isocarboxazid** (Marplan)
 - **Selegiline** (Emsam) - Transdermal patch
- 5. **Atypical Antidepressants**
 - **Bupropion** (Wellbutrin, Zyban)
 - **Mirtazapine** (Remeron)
 - **Trazodone** (Desyrel)
 - **Vilazodone** (Viibryd)
 - **Vortioxetine** (Trintellix)
- 6. **Other Antidepressants**
 - **Agomelatine** (Valdoxan) – Melatonergic, used in some countries
 - **Nefazodone** (Serzone) – Less commonly prescribed due to liver concerns

Anxiety Medications

1. **Benzodiazepines**
 - **Alprazolam** (Xanax)
 - **Lorazepam** (Ativan)
 - **Diazepam** (Valium)
 - **Clonazepam** (Klonopin)
 - **Chlordiazepoxide** (Librium)
 - **Oxazepam** (Serax)
 - **Temazepam** (Restoril)
 - **Triazolam** (Halcion)
2. **Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)** (also prescribed for anxiety)
 - **Fluoxetine** (Prozac)
 - **Sertraline** (Zoloft)
 - **Escitalopram** (Lexapro)
 - **Paroxetine** (Paxil)
3. **Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)** (also prescribed for anxiety)

- **Venlafaxine** (Effexor XR)
- **Duloxetine** (Cymbalta)
- 4. **Buspirone** (Buspar)
 - Primarily used for generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), non-habit forming, and less sedative than benzodiazepines.
- 5. **Beta-Blockers** (for situational anxiety)
 - **Propranolol** (Inderal)
 - **Atenolol** (Tenormin)
 - **Metoprolol** (Lopressor)
- 6. **Antihistamines**
 - **Hydroxyzine** (Vistaril, Atarax) – Used for short-term anxiety relief due to its sedative properties.
- 7. **Other Medications**
 - **Clonidine** (Catapres) – Primarily for hypertension, sometimes used for anxiety, particularly in trauma-related anxiety.
 - **Gabapentin** (Neurontin) – Occasionally used off-label for anxiety.

There's also lots of outrageous cases where antipsychotic medication (for example Olanzapine) is prescribed **off-label** to treat anxiety disorders.

Common Side Effects of SSRIs

1. Sexual Dysfunction

Decreased libido: A reduction in sexual desire is common.

Delayed orgasm or anorgasmia: Difficulty reaching orgasm or no ability to achieve orgasm, a frequent side effect.

Erectile dysfunction: In men, SSRIs can lead to difficulty achieving or maintaining an erection.

2. Sleep Disturbances

Insomnia: Difficulty falling or staying asleep is a common side effect.

Drowsiness: Some individuals may feel unusually sleepy or fatigued, especially when starting SSRIs.

Vivid dreams or nightmares: A more uncommon side effect, but still reported by some patients.

3. Weight Changes

Weight loss: Typically observed early in treatment, especially in individuals who experience appetite suppression.

Weight gain: Over longer periods of use, some individuals may experience weight gain, though it is less common than weight loss.

4. Increased Anxiety or Agitation

Initial increase in anxiety: Some patients experience heightened anxiety or agitation during the first few weeks of SSRIs, which may resolve as the body adjusts.

Nervousness or restlessness: Feelings of jitteriness or restlessness may occur, particularly in the beginning.

5. Headaches

Headaches: A common side effect, especially when starting the medication.

6. Dizziness or Lightheadedness

Dizziness: A feeling of lightheadedness, especially when standing up quickly (due to changes in blood pressure), is often reported.

Vertigo: Some individuals may experience a sensation of spinning.

7. Sweating

Excessive sweating: Especially night sweats, which can be bothersome.

8. Dry Mouth

Dry mouth (xerostomia): A relatively common side effect of SSRIs, leading to discomfort or increased risk of dental issues.

9. Emotional Blunting

Reduced emotional responsiveness: Some patients report feeling emotionally “numb” or less able to experience emotions fully, which may affect both positive and negative emotions.

10. Tremors

Hand tremors: Mild shaking of the hands or fingers can occur in some patients.

11. Risk of Bleeding

Increased risk of bleeding: SSRIs can affect platelet function, leading to an increased risk of bleeding, especially when taken with other medications that also increase bleeding risk (e.g., blood thinners).

12. Withdrawal Symptoms (Discontinuation Syndrome)

Discontinuation syndrome: Abruptly stopping SSRIs can lead to withdrawal symptoms, such as dizziness, nausea, headache, irritability, flu-like symptoms, and sensory disturbances (e.g., “brain zaps”). These symptoms are typically manageable with a gradual tapering off of the medication under medical supervision.

13. Increased Suicidal Thoughts (Particularly in Young Adults)

Suicidal thoughts: Some studies have indicated a potential increase in suicidal thoughts or behaviors, particularly in adolescents and young adults under 25. Monitoring is especially important during the early stages of treatment.

14. Hyponatremia (Low Sodium Levels)

Hyponatremia: Rarely, SSRIs can cause low sodium levels in the blood, leading to symptoms like confusion, seizures, and fatigue. This is more common in older adults or those taking diuretics.

Common Side Effects of SNRIs

1. Gastrointestinal Issues

Nausea: One of the most common side effects when starting SNRIs, which often improves over time.

Dry mouth: A common side effect that can lead to discomfort and an increased risk of dental problems.

Constipation: Some individuals experience gastrointestinal discomfort, including constipation.

Decreased appetite: This can result in weight loss in some individuals, particularly early in treatment.

2. Sexual Dysfunction

Decreased libido: A reduction in sexual desire is common and can occur in both men and women.

Delayed orgasm or anorgasmia: Difficulty reaching orgasm or a complete lack of ability to achieve orgasm.

Erectile dysfunction: Men may experience difficulty achieving or maintaining an erection.

3. Sleep Disturbances

Insomnia: Difficulty falling or staying asleep is a frequent side effect, particularly during the early stages of treatment.

Drowsiness or sedation: On the other hand, some people may feel excessively sleepy or fatigued.

Vivid dreams or nightmares: Some individuals may experience unusual or disturbing dreams while on SNRIs.

4. Increased Blood Pressure

Elevated blood pressure: SNRIs, particularly at higher doses, can lead to an increase in blood pressure due to their impact on norepinephrine. Regular monitoring of blood pressure is recommended for patients on SNRIs, especially those with pre-existing hypertension.

5. Dizziness or Lightheadedness

Dizziness: Many people report feeling lightheaded or dizzy, especially when standing up quickly.

Vertigo: A sensation of spinning or unsteadiness can occur, particularly when first starting the medication.

6. Headaches

Headaches: Another common side effect, especially when beginning treatment with an SNRI.

7. Sweating

Increased Sweating: Many individuals experience excessive sweating, including night sweats, which can be uncomfortable.

8. Fatigue or Weakness

Fatigue: Some individuals feel unusually tired or weak, particularly when adjusting to the medication.

Lethargy: A general sense of low energy or sluggishness can occur, though it may improve over time.

9. Anxiety or Agitation

Increased Anxiety: Some people experience heightened anxiety or restlessness, especially during the first few weeks of treatment.

Irritability: Increased irritability or agitation can occur in some individuals, particularly when starting the medication.

10. Risk of Bleeding

Increased Risk of Bleeding: SNRIs, like SSRIs, can affect platelet aggregation and may increase the risk of bleeding, particularly when taken with other medications that also increase bleeding risk (e.g., blood thinners).

12. Withdrawal Symptoms (Discontinuation Syndrome)

Discontinuation syndrome: Stopping an SNRI abruptly can lead to withdrawal symptoms, including dizziness, nausea, headache, flu-like symptoms, and irritability. To avoid this, it is recommended that the medication be gradually tapered under a healthcare provider's supervision.

13. Elevated Heart Rate

Tachycardia (increased heart rate): Some individuals may experience an increased heart rate, particularly at higher doses, due to the norepinephrine-reuptake inhibiting effect of the medication.

15. Hyponatremia (Low Sodium Levels)

Hyponatremia: This is a rare side effect, but it can occur in elderly individuals, especially in those who are also taking diuretics. Symptoms include confusion, weakness, and dizziness.

16. Increased Suicidal Thoughts (Particularly in Young Adults)

Suicidal Ideation: Similar to SSRIs, there is an increased risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors in adolescents and young adults, especially during the first few weeks of treatment. Close monitoring is important during the initiation of treatment.

Common Side Effects of MAOIs

1. Gastrointestinal Issues

Nausea: A common side effect, especially when starting the medication.

Dry mouth: Many individuals experience a dry mouth, which can lead to discomfort and increase the risk of dental issues.

Constipation: Reduced gastrointestinal motility is a frequent complaint with MAOIs.

Loss of Appetite: Can lead to weight loss in some individuals.

2. Sexual Dysfunction

Decreased Libido: MAOIs can reduce sexual desire in both men and women.

Erectile Dysfunction: Men may experience difficulty achieving or maintaining an erection.

Delayed Orgasm or Anorgasmia: Difficulty reaching orgasm or complete inability to orgasm.

3. Sleep Disturbances

Insomnia: Difficulty falling or staying asleep is a common side effect, as MAOIs can be stimulating due to their norepinephrine- and dopamine-increasing effects.

Sedation or Drowsiness: Some individuals experience excessive sleepiness, especially at the start of treatment.

Vivid Dreams or Nightmares: Disturbing or unusually intense dreams are sometimes reported.

4. Elevated Blood Pressure (Hypertension)

Hypertensive Crisis: The most dangerous side effect associated with MAOIs, this can occur when tyramine-rich foods (such as aged cheese, cured meats, or red wine) are consumed. Tyramine, when not broken down by MAO, can cause a sudden increase in blood pressure, leading to a hypertensive crisis, which is a medical emergency.

Increased Blood Pressure: MAOIs can cause moderate increases in blood pressure, especially when combined with other medications that affect norepinephrine, like decongestants.

5. Dizziness or Lightheadedness

Orthostatic Hypotension: This is a drop in blood pressure when standing up quickly, leading to dizziness or fainting. It is especially common when starting the medication or adjusting dosages.

6. Headaches

Frequent Headaches: Many individuals experience headaches, particularly when beginning treatment with MAOIs.

7. Fatigue or Weakness

Fatigue: Some people report feeling unusually tired or weak, particularly at higher doses or when adjusting to the medication.

Lethargy: A general feeling of sluggishness or low energy.

8. Weight Gain or Loss

Weight Gain: Over long-term use, some people may experience weight gain, although this side effect is less common than with other classes of antidepressants.

Weight Loss: This can occur early in treatment, particularly if there is a loss of appetite or other gastrointestinal symptoms.

Common Side Effects of TCAs

1. Anticholinergic Effects

TCAs have strong anticholinergic properties, meaning they block acetylcholine receptors, which can lead to:

Dry mouth (xerostomia): one of the most common side effects, which can also increase the risk of tooth decay.

Constipation: due to reduced motility in the gastrointestinal tract.

Blurred Vision: often caused by the reduction in the ability of the eye to focus.

Urinary Retention: difficulty in urinating, particularly in older adults.

Cognitive Impairment: Short-term memory difficulties, confusion, and difficulty concentrating, especially in older adults.

Increased heart rate (tachycardia): Heart palpitations and a faster than normal heart rate may occur.

2. Sedation and Drowsiness

Sedation: TCAs are known for their sedative effects, which can cause drowsiness or fatigue. This is due to their effect on histamine receptors, which also play a role in regulating wakefulness.

Fatigue: Many patients experience tiredness, which can be bothersome, particularly during the day.

Morning Grogginess: Sedative effects may carry over into the next day, leading to a feeling of "hangover."

3. Weight Gain

Weight Gain: TCAs can increase appetite and lead to weight gain, often due to their impact on serotonin and other neurotransmitter systems that regulate hunger and metabolism. Weight gain can be significant over time and is a common side effect.

4. Orthostatic Hypotension (Low Blood Pressure)

Orthostatic hypotension: TCAs can cause a drop in blood pressure when standing up quickly, leading to dizziness or fainting. This occurs due to the blocking of α_1 -adrenergic receptors that are involved in blood vessel constriction and blood pressure regulation.

Dizziness: Especially when standing up or changing positions.

5. Sexual Dysfunction

Sexual Side Effects: Although not as common as with SSRIs, TCAs can still lead to sexual dysfunction, including:

- Decreased libido
- Difficulty achieving orgasm
- Erectile dysfunction (in men)

6. Increased Risk of Cardiac Issues

Arrhythmias: TCAs can affect the heart's rhythm and increase the risk of heart arrhythmias, particularly at high doses. This is a significant concern, especially in older patients or those with pre-existing heart conditions.

Prolonged QT interval: TCAs can cause changes in the heart's electrical conduction, leading to a prolonged QT interval on an ECG, which increases the risk of serious arrhythmias.

Tachycardia (increased heart rate): The anticholinergic effects can increase the heart rate, contributing to palpitations.

7. Sweating

Excessive sweating: Some patients may experience increased perspiration, particularly at night.

8. Risk of Overdose

Overdose risk: TCAs are highly toxic in overdose, making them dangerous in cases of suicide attempts. Even relatively small overdoses can lead to life-threatening conditions such as arrhythmias, seizures, and respiratory depression.

9. Confusion and Cognitive Effects

Confusion or delirium: Particularly in older adults, TCAs can cause confusion, memory problems, and even hallucinations due to their anticholinergic properties.

Impaired concentration: Difficulty focusing or thinking clearly is also common, especially during the first few weeks of treatment.

10. Increased Risk of Seizures

Seizure risk: While rare, TCAs lower the seizure threshold, meaning they can increase the risk of seizures, particularly at higher doses.

11. Liver Enzyme Effects

Liver enzyme elevation: TCAs can affect liver function, leading to elevated liver enzymes. Liver function tests should be monitored, especially for long-term use.

12. Blurred Vision

Vision problems: The anticholinergic effects of TCAs can lead to blurred vision or difficulty focusing, especially in older adults.

13. Hair Loss (Alopecia)

Hair thinning or loss: While rare, some individuals may experience hair loss while taking TCAs.

14. Peripheral Neuropathy

Numbness or tingling: TCAs can sometimes cause sensations of numbness or tingling in the hands or feet, a condition known as peripheral neuropathy.

Theoretical Deduction

The previous sections only highlight the various **common** side effects of standard medication used to treat depression. So, just by quickly looking through them we immediately conclude that almost all, if not all, medications do the following to those who take them:

- Castration
- Insomnia
- More Depression (leading to suicidal thoughts)
- Fatigue (leading to productivity impairment and job loss)
- Psychiatric Slavery (due to withdrawal symptoms that prevent discontinuation)
- Other/Miscellaneous

So, we deduct very easily that “anti-depression” medication is actually “depression” medication. If someone cannot sleep, or sleeps too much, cannot have sex, cannot work properly due to tiredness, feels trapped in a vicious dependency with their doctor, etc.. that person will obviously fall into a deeper level of depression, a self sustainable loop of increasing depression that may end very tragically.

It is a belief of several educated and bright people that psychiatric medication is being weaponized and used to shut down undesirable people that, unfortunately, do not conform with societal status quo. There is mounting evidence that these medications (and more) are being used to coerce and exploit people in the most various forms:

- Sexual Exploitation/Cancellation
- Doctor-Patient Coercion

- Laboral Coercion
- Criminal Activity Incitement due to Coercion/Mind Altering

Furthermore, there is a running dark joke in the intelligence community that says that it is easier to destroy a country by disrupting the supply lines of psychiatric medications than by starving that country to death. People can survive maybe a couple of weeks without food but they probably won't survive 3 days without taking their depression/anxiety meds (withdrawal symptoms would be life threatening/fatal). So, should countries that aspire to be sovereign promote such a lenient psychiatric agenda?

CAUTION: if you are a victim of psychiatric medication, please do not abruptly discontinue it. Try to patiently talk to your doctor about other more sustainable alternatives. If that fails, seek help near your closest and more enlightened friends and family, so that you manage to wean off the medication safely. Remember, even though your doctor has superior privileges than you in this society, he/she is still an interested party and has his/her own personal goals and agendas, which may and will very likely collide with yours (especially if you are part of more vulnerable groups).

Conclusion

The exploration of depression/anxiety, its portrayal in public health media, and the widespread use of antidepressant medications has uncovered disturbing inconsistencies between the advertised goals of mental health interventions and their actual impacts on individuals. From the public health campaigns aimed at raising “awareness” of depression—often delivered in ways that perpetuate negative emotional states—to the pervasive reliance on antidepressants that may exacerbate the very symptoms they seek to alleviate, there is a growing concern that the psychiatric industry may be complicit in fostering a cycle of dependency, cognitive impairment, and societal control. The use of medications that function as central nervous system (CNS) depressants, many of which are marketed as “antidepressants,” presents a paradox: they may treat the symptoms of depression, but their side effects—including sexual dysfunction, emotional blunting, and increased risk of suicidal thoughts—raise profound ethical and clinical questions.

As pharmaceutical companies continue to profit from the increased global demand for quick and accessible solutions to depression and anxiety, there are troubling signs that the motives behind these widespread prescriptions may not align with the best interests of patients. The potential for exploitation—whether through sexual, psychiatric, or labor-related coercion—raises the possibility that antidepressant medications are being used not merely to treat individuals but to shape behavior and limit personal agency. Moreover, the risks associated with withdrawal from these medications, which can lead to life-threatening symptoms, underscore the power these drugs hold over individuals, particularly when withdrawal becomes virtually impossible due to dependence.

In light of this, it is essential for individuals, healthcare providers, and policymakers to critically assess the role of antidepressants in modern psychiatry. While these medications can be life-saving for some, the growing body of evidence calling into question their long-term efficacy and safety must prompt a reevaluation of how depression is understood and treated. The treatment of depression should prioritize patient well-being over corporate profit, and alternative approaches, including more holistic treatments and genuine psychological support, should be considered alongside pharmacological interventions. Ultimately, the goal should be to empower individuals to reclaim their autonomy, foster mental well-being, and avoid the trap of psychiatric dependency that not only fails to alleviate but may also deepen their suffering. The promotion of such an agenda must be done with transparency, ethics, and a commitment to preserving human dignity in the face of overwhelming pharmaceutical influence.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank OpenAI and specifically ChatGPT for helping me put together this paper text so fast, even though the proof itself is of my own making. I also would like to thank my friends.

References

World Health Organization (WHO). (2017). *Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates*. World Health Organization. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int>.

Muench, J., & Hamer, A. M. (2010). *Side effects of antipsychotic medications*. *American Family Physician*, 81(5), 617-622.

Fournier, J. C., DeRubeis, R. J., Hollon, S. D., et al. (2010). *Antidepressant drug effects and depression severity: A meta-analysis*. *JAMA*, 303(1), 47-53.

Moncrieff, J. (2008). *The myths of the chemical cure: A critique of the theory of chemical imbalances in psychiatry*. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 54(5), 417-421.

Healy, D. (2004). *Let Them Eat Prozac: The Unofficial Story of the Pharmaceutical Industry*. New York University Press.

Breggin, P. R. (2008). *Medication Madness: The Role of Psychiatric Drugs in Cases of Violence, Suicide, and Crime*. St. Martin's Press.

Klein, D. C., & Gorman, A. L. (2016). *The Role of Antidepressant Medications in Depression: Mechanisms, Effects, and Challenges*. *Psychiatry Journal*, 2016, 1-7.

Cunningham, J. M., & Packer, C. V. (2007). *The Ethical Implications of Antidepressant Use and Psychiatric Diagnosis*. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 30(3), 573-585.

Pies, R. (2011). *The Role of Psychiatric Drugs in the Development of Chronic Illness*. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, 72(6), 771-778.

Gilbert, P., & McHugh, L. (2009). *The Impact of Psychiatric Medications on Quality of Life and Well-being*. *British Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 48(1), 13-29.

Moncrieff, J., & Leo, J. (2010). *A critique of the "chemical imbalance" theory of depression*. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, 34(9), 314-316.

Katz, R. D., & Muench, J. (2004). *Mental Health and Media: The Impact of Mental Health Campaigns on Public Awareness*. *American Journal of Public Health*, 94(7), 1186-1192.

Doherty, P., & Kallianpur, S. (2013). *The Pharmaceutical Industry and the Ethics of Psychiatric Medication Marketing*. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 39(12), 721-728.

Gøtzsche, P. C. (2015). *Deadly Psychiatry and Organised Denial*. Nordic Cochrane Institute.

Lamberti, J. S., & Munoz, A. G. (2012). *Exploring Psychiatric Practices and Public Perception of Depressive Disorders*. *Psychiatry Research*, 28(4), 455-463.

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). (2020). *Depression*. Retrieved from <https://www.nimh.nih.gov>.

Baker, S. (2019). *The Black Dog: Media Influence on Public Perception of Depression and Treatment Options*. *Journal of Health Communication*, 24(7), 98-105.

Tegmark, M. (2018). *Beyond Psychiatry: New Models for Mental Health Treatment in the Modern Era*. *American Journal of Public Health*, 108(10), 1295-1303.

Hyman, S. E. (2010). *The Diagnosis and Treatment of Depression in the Age of Neuroscience*. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 33(1), 79-89.

Gratton, J. (2016). *Pharmaceutical Exploitation of Mental Health Conditions: How Medication Contributes to Social Control*. *Social Justice Review*, 58(2), 126-133.