

PE1651/FF

Submission of 3 January 2018

I used to work as a mechanical engineer, and had a some what successful commercial and industrial photography business.

Ciprelex Is a SSRI is an antidepressant that regulates serotonin, a chemical messenger. Which is just reformed lexapro marketed as a new drug in Canada in about 2010, even though a lot of problems with Lexapro were showing up in the US and around the world.

In 2011 I my doctor diagnosed with mild depression and Fibromyalgia pain , against my better judgment, started taking Ciprelex. I was told it was the new latest antidepressant. And told there would be no withdrawal when coming off them. (I realize now my doctor was just repeating what the drug rep told him , and what literature he had read from the drug company. I'm sure he thought this was a new safer drug to use for treating depression and fibromyalgia pain)

Shortly after taking Ciprelex, I noticed electrical shocks, and a burning sensation going through my brain and body, (to the point I was afraid to drive, or operate machinery) I talked to my doctor , and was told this was my body getting used to the chemical change in my body, and only a few experience this. I felt it wasn't really helping me , and my dose was increased from 10mg to 20 mg a day. This drug basically made me into a functioning Zombie, although shortly after taking this drug , I found I could no longer function and do my job as a consultant/ mechanical engineer in the oil fields (17 years). I used to be very good at organizing, producing reports, trouble shooting, and staying calm in difficult situations, doing math in my head.

My life turned into a nightmare, I started having very violent and gory dreams. (which was very unusual for me) and yes started having suicidal thoughts (again unusual for me) I was having trouble with my eye sight shortly going on this drug, saw an optometrist and was told it was my age was catching up to me, but could not explain why I developed "Night Blindness" 6 yrs (having read reports, I am now finding out a lot of people on these drugs have developed "Night Blindness" and other eye problems) for me it was to the point I now will not drive at night. And still wont. Some of the littlest daily problems can get me overwhelmed very easily.

The list of side effects is from this drug for me was very severe and long. The the scary thing about it I didn't realize or understand that it was the drug doing this to me, I felt I was outside looking in. Due to my behavior I could not hold down jobs, did not get along with other co workers, was actually let go from a job (a first time in my life) after being a longtime employee at other jobs, always got along with everyone. I became recluse, and lost interest in a lot of daily life activities. Reading, playing music, I had to shut down a part time photography ,and custom picture framing business. (which was my passion). I was severely depressed, suicidal, physically sick, suffered severe episodes of anxiety, (which was unusual for me) Severe "Brain Fog", insomnia, etc.

I felt I had spiritually died inside, and felt I was dieing physically (to the point I purchased a body bag . My "distorted" thinking being if I died, or committed suicide, I didn't want to leave a mess for others to deal with, it would be contained) After a unusual night of clarity I was reflecting on my life , and how terrible it had gotten, I realized it started, or had changed since taking Ciprelex (2.5years) And knew I had to get off of it. I talked to my Doctor and told him I wanted to get off Ciprelex, and he agreed and we started slowly weening off the dosage. This turned in to another nightmare all in it's self, (it was just horrible) as withdrawal was very severe. The Doctor, and pharmacist kept telling me it was just my body getting used to the chemical change in my body, and it would only last 6 weeks (again both repeating what the drug literature, and drug reps had told them) I had to go back ona higher dose of Ciprelex , and try a slower weeing off which took 6 months, still with very severe side effects. (This sounds like withdrawal to me, even though the drug companies said there would be no withdrawal)

I have now been off Ciprelex for 6 years , and am still dealing with the side effects, and possible brain damage. I ended up selling just about everything I owned, and moved to live with family (who are still having difficulty in understanding what the hell happened to me) I have seen other doctors, psychologists who say no it's not the Ciprelex , as it will only stay in the body for 6 weeks (when I hear this I know they have been indoctrinated by the pharmaceutical companies, and most doctors do not have a clue what theses drugs are capable of) (after six weeks,It's all in your head")

I still have not been able to get back to work or function normally. Even after 6 years of being off Ciprelex, I still get electrical shocks, and brain zaps (as a lot of people try to describe them) I never had theses effects until I started taking Ciprelex. There is severe memory loss from the past 5 years, as many other have experienced also. And just to list a few more side effects, Dysphoria, akathisia, PTSD, Anhedonia, I have been in and out of emergency rooms, and most doctors offer very little help, and do not know how to deal with this, and a lot of time making the situation life threatening.

I could go on, and on, this is just a little snap shot of what I, and many others are going through, and the hell they are dealing with. We are not going crazy we just have been poisoned, and trying to find out if the brain damage is permanent, or temporary? I understand why people go back on theses drugs, after trying to get off them. It's Horrible.

I have since found a new Doctor who is aware of what's going on with theses drugs. These drug can stay in your system for a very long time as I, and others are founding out. (not the 6 weeks like we were told by the drug companies) and are proving to be very damaging to the brain.

In desperation when coming off Ciprelex I went and saw an addictions counselor, who told me Antidepressants are becoming a "Huge" problem for them , and yes they are very, very addictive and very damaging drugs.

Having researched and talking with many others , I am finding I am not an isolated and unusual case. Just "one" of the sites I'm a member of on facebook (and there

are many of them) almost 4000 people from all over,(just from ONE site) are experiencing the same problems I am in, in one form or another from taking theses drugs. This information needs to get out to more people, there are thousands suffering in silence, and their not gone , or going crazy, they have been poisoned! I have lost everything that was dear to me, my career,marriage, my house, my music, my passions, my spirituality, my life savings.

I could write more , but I think you get part of the picture.