

PE1651/AAAAAAAAA

Anonymous submission of 8 May 2018

I shall try & keep this brief.

I have been taking the drug Effexor (venlafaxine) for 6.5 years.

GP's & psychiatrists have never warned me of the side effects or difficulties I might face in withdrawal. They have all been very keen however, to increase the dosage & discharge me.

I began taking 75mg & now take 375mg.

My life is a mere existence.

I sweat profusely, I fall asleep in the afternoon, I have lost weight & cannot bare food, I am often confused, dazed, anxious.

I experience brain zaps, excruciating head aches on waking, have nightmares, restless legs, entire body jolts. My vision is blurry, I hear & see things that aren't there, at times I feel that I'm only living because I have a little dog & the thought of her waiting for me to come home each day is all that keeps me going.

I work part time, claim benefit & live with my mother which is soul destroying but I have had to accept that whilst I am medicated on this drug, I have limits.

I have lost myself, my enthusiasm, relationships, marriage, home, finances, career. My family do not understand what I am going through on this potent/toxic drug which I feel trapped on.

I only hope that my words will be acknowledged & become helpful in some way.