

PE1651/CCCCCCCC

Anonymous submission of 11 February 2018

I'm willing to support the current petition and raise awareness on the permanent harms caused by psychiatric drugs - especially antidepressants - with below references from mostly peer-reviewed medical literature (with author(s), date and source(s) indicated). Already thousands of people from all over the world and all ages are suffering from in many cases **permanent and currently irreversible sexual dysfunction caused by** serotonin-increasing agents, mostly **antidepressants** (SSRI, SNRI, and in other cases from antipsychotics), known as **PSSD (Post-SSRI Sexual Dysfunction)**. This iatrogenic injury is characterized by:

- loss of sensations in genitals (known as genital anesthesia)
- loss of sensations in every erogenous part of the body
- loss of libido
- loss of feeling aroused
- loss of any sexual functioning
- erectile dysfunction in males and lack of lubrication in females
- anorgasmia both in males and females or pleasureless orgasms
- loss of emotional range and feelings of love and intimacy (emotional numbness or emotional anesthesia)
- in cases genital pain
- PSSD is very often accompanied by other problems like memory, concentration and cognitive problems, loss of alertness, head pressures, weakness, chronic fatigue, loss of motivation etc.

PSSD can be triggered by a short exposure (even by one single antidepressant pill), and **can last indefinitely** after it is withdrawn. It is still unclear how antidepressants cause this complex syndrome, but there are **many theories: neurotoxicity (toxic encephalopathy), activation of 5ht2a/2c receptors which inhibit sexual function, loss of SERT and permanent 5ht1a serotonin receptor desensitization, inhibition of pudendal C-fibers, ion channel changes, damage to endocrine and neurosteroid system, damage to dopamine receptors, hypopituitarism caused by toxic damage to pituitary gland, gene expression changes in brain, structural damage to brain, peripheral neuropathies affecting sensory nerves etc.**

Prescription of any antidepressant without warning about the risk of suffering permanent damage which leads to complete asexuality and loss of sexual functions is **unacceptable, unethical and severely violates the universal human right to have informed consent**. As of today there is **no warning in any antidepressant leaflet about PSSD** to my knowledge (except from a vague mention in case of US Prozac) **although there are many medical studies and articles since 2006 about it. PSSD is**

observed in humans and laboratory animals as well. Victims are often left in inhuman conditions, humiliated and not believed in spite of the evidence in medical literature and many have been suffering for 5+, 10+ years of PSSD already with no help and no significant return of sensations and sexual functions.

I ask the Scottish parliament to contact with pharmaceutical companies and force them to find the exact cause of PSSD and a cure for it for all affected victims.

Going back to the psychiatrist who prescribed the drug is proven to be useless as they have no proper knowledge about the mechanism of effect of these drugs and their impact on the human body (what is quite disconcerting). Having sexual functioning, intimate relationships, proper cognitive functions and a full emotional range to experience human life are inalienable rights and necessities to any human being. Although chemical castration of pedophiles is considered inhuman by many, psychiatry occasionally chemically castrates completely healthy and innocent people (including children) permanently and without any informed consent. **This is unacceptable and I urge the Scottish parliament to take action against this current practice and to force a full disclosure of potentially permanent or persistent damages these drugs can do to people. Thank you.**

Here I offer a few studies as evidence for the petition from medical literature about: **PSSD, long post-treatment effects of antidepressants, severe long-term antidepressant discontinuation symptoms and endocrine disruption caused by antidepressants:**

Medical literature about PSSD

- 1) **Persistent Sexual Side Effects after SSRI Discontinuation, Antonei B. Csoka, Stuart Shipko, 2006**
- 2) **Genital anaesthesia persisting six years after sertraline discontinuation, Bolton JM, Sareen J, Reiss JP, 2006**
- 3) **Post SSRI Sexual Dysfunction, Audrey Bahrnick, 2006**
- 4) **Prolonged Post-Treatment Genital Anesthesia and Sexual Dysfunction Following Discontinuation of Citalopram and the Atypical Antidepressant Nefazodone, Robert P. Kauffman, Amanda Murdock, 2007**
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Prolonged-Post-Treatment-Genital-Anesthesia-and-of-Kauffman-Murdock/c3245ae404a6ff3188ba568a9ebb5255767d6138>

- 5) Persistent Sexual Dysfunction after Discontinuation of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, Antonei Csoka, Audrey Bahrack, Olli-Pekka Mehtonen, 2008
 - 6) Persistence of Sexual Dysfunction Side Effects after Discontinuation of Antidepressant Medications: Emerging Evidence, Audrey S. Bahrack, 2008
 - 7) Persistent Genital Arousal Disorder in Women: Case Reports of Association with Anti-Depressant Usage and Withdrawal, Sandra R. Leibluma & David Goldmeierb, 2008
- Persistent sexual dysfunction in genitourinary medicine clinic attendees induced by selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, Farnsworth KD, Dinsmore WW, 2009
- 8) The impact of persistent sexual side effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors after discontinuing treatment: a qualitative study, Rebecca Diane Stinson, 2013
 - 9) Does sexual dysfunction persist upon discontinuation of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors?, G.C. Ekhart, E.P. van Puijenbroek, 2014
 - 10) One hundred and twenty cases of enduring sexual dysfunction following treatment, Hogan C, Le Noury J, Healy D, Mangin D, 2014
 - 11) Penile anesthesia in post SSRI sexual dysfunction (PSSD) responds to low-power laser irradiation: A case study and hypothesis about the role of transient receptor potential (TRP) ion channels, Waldinger MD, van Coevorden RS, Schweitzer DH, Georgiadis J, 2014
 - 12) Post-SSRI Sexual Dysfunction: Clinical Characterization and Preliminary Assessment of Contributory Factors and Dose-Response Relationship. Ben-Sheetrit J, Aizenberg D, Csoka AB, Weizman A, Hermesh H., 2015
 - 13) Post-SSRI's Sexual Disorders (PSSD), Y. Reisman MD, PhD, FECSM, Sexuality Clinics The Netherlands, 2016
 - 14) HANDBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY Series, Editors: MICHAEL J. AMINOFF, FRANC OIS BOLLER, AND DICK F. SWAAB VOLUME 130, NEUROLOGY OF SEXUAL AND BLADDER DISORDERS, 2015
 - 15) Sexual Side Effects of Antidepressant Medications: An Informed Consent Accountability Gap, Bahrack, Audrey S., and Mark M. Harris, Journal Of Contemporary Psychotherapy, Vol 39(2), June 2009, pp 135-143. No PubMed abstract.

- 16) American leaflet of Prozac – Eli Lilly – p 14
- 17) Epigenetic side-effects of common pharmaceuticals: A potential new field in medicine and pharmacology, Antonei B. Csoka, Moshe Szyf, Medical Hypotheses 73 (2009) 770–780
- 18) Persistent Sexual Side Effects after Discontinuation of Psychotropic Medications, Kauffman RP. , Primary Psychiatry 2008
- 19) Persistent genital arousal in women -- a new syndrome entity, Goldmeier D1, Leiblum SR., Int J STD AIDS. 2006 Apr;17(4):215-6.
- 20) Premature ejaculation associated with citalopram withdrawal, Adson DE, Kotlyar M, Ann Pharmacother. 2003 Dec;37(12):1804-6. doi:10.1345/aph.1D214. PMID 14632589.
- 21) Netherlands Pharmacovigilance Center, Lareb (2012). SSRIs and persistent sexual dysfunction
- 22) Withdrawal of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) May Cause Increased Atrial Natriuretic Peptide (ANP) and Persistent Sexual Arousal in Women?, The Journal of Sexual Medicine, March 2006 Volume 3, Issue 2, Page 376
- 23) Psychiatric disorders and sexual dysfunction, Waldinger MD, Handb Clin Neurol. 2015;130:469-89. doi: 10.1016/B978-0-444-63247-0.00027-4.
- 24) Persistent sexual dysfunction after early exposure to SSRIs: Systematic review of animal studies, Simonsen AL, Danborg PB, Gøtzsche PC., Int J Risk Saf Med. 2016 Mar 16;28(1):1-12. doi: 10.3233/JRS-160668.
- 25) American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), 2013, page 449

“In some cases, serotonin reuptake inhibitor-induced sexual dysfunction may persist after the agent is discontinued.”

- 26) From Rxisk.org – Dr. David Healy’s website (CEO and principal founder of Data Based Medicine Americas Ltd., internationally respected psychiatrist, psychopharmacologist, scientist, and author)
David Healy: Psychiatric Drugs Explained: Edition 5, David Healy, Elsevier Health Sciences, 2008
- 27) Health & Drugs: Disease, Prescription & Medication, Nicolae Sfetcu, 2014

- 28) **Prozac qualified as reproductive toxin in 1999 by CERHR**
- 29) **Sexual Consequences of Post-SSRI Syndrome, Sex Med Rev. 2017 Jun 19. pii: S2050-0521(17)30046-X. doi: 10.1016/j.sxmr.2017.05.002. [Epub ahead of print]**
- 30) **GLOBAL NEUROPHARMACOLOGICAL CASTRATION OF HUMAN SEXUALITY: SSRI'S AND ANTI-PSYCHOTICS Psychopharmacology of Psychiatric Medications and Sexual Function Disorders Due to Psychiatric Drugs, DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.35224.80642**

Medical literature that supports a longterm post-treatment effect of antidepressants

- 1) **Neonatal antidepressant exposure has lasting effects on behavior and serotonin circuitry, Maciag D, Simpson KL, Coppinger D, Lu Y, Wang Y, Lin RC, Paul IA, Neuropsychopharmacology. 2006 Jan;31(1):47-57.**
- 2) **Gene expression profile analysis of the rat cortex following treatment with imipramine and citalopram, Palotás M1, Palotás A, Puskás LG, Kitajka K, Pákási M, Janka Z, Molnár J, Penke B, Kálmán J., Int J Neuropsychopharmacol. 2004 Dec;7(4):401-13. Epub 2004 Jul 26.**
- 3) **Effects of antidepressant treatment on gene expression profile in mouse brain: cell type-specific transcription profiling using laser microdissection, Boehm C, Newrzella D, Herberger S, Schramm N, Eisenhardt G, Schenk V, et al., Journal of Neurochemistry, Volume 97, Issue Supplement s1, pages 44–49, April 2006**
- 4) **Maternal exposure to the antidepressant fluoxetine impairs sexual motivation in adult male mice, Gouvea TS, Morimoto HK, de Faria MJ, Moreira EG, Gerardin DC., Pharmacol Biochem Behav; 2008. and microarray analysis. J Neurochem 2006;97(Suppl 1):44–9.**

- 5) **Jefferson Scientists Show Several Serotonin-Boosting Drugs Cause Changes in Some Brain Cells, Some cells shriveled, while others took on corkscrew shapes,**
Published: 2-29-2000
- 6) **Effects of chronic treatment with fluvoxamine and paroxetine during adolescence on serotonin-related behavior in adult male rats,** Trynke R. de Jong, Liselore J.A.E. Snaphaan, Tommy Pattij, Jan G. Veening, Marcel D. Waldinger, Alexander R. Cools, Berend Olivier, **European Neuropsychopharmacology,** January 2006 Volume 16, Issue 1, Pages 39–48
- 7) **Safety and efficacy of citalopram in the treatment of premature ejaculation: a double-blind placebo-controlled, fixed dose, randomized study,** M R Safarinejad and S Y Hosseini, **International Journal of Impotence Research (2006) 18, 164–169.,** published online 18 August 2005
- 8) **Sustained desensitization of hypothalamic 5-Hydroxytryptamine1A receptors after discontinuation of fluoxetine: inhibited neuroendocrine responses to 8-hydroxy-2-(Dipropylamino)Tetralin in the absence of changes in Gi/o/z proteins,** Raap DK, Garcia F, Muma NA, Wolf WA, Battaglia G, van de Kar LD, **J Pharmacol Exp Ther.** 1999 Feb;288(2):561-7.
- 9) **A Case of SSRI Induced Irreversible Parkinsonism,** Siddharth Dixit, Shahbaj A Khan, and Sudip Azad, **J Clin Diagn Res.** 2015 Feb; 9(2): VD01–VD02., Published online 2015 Feb 1. doi: 10.7860/JCDR/2015/11394.5583
- 10) **Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitor-induced movement disorders,** Ann Pharmacother. 1998 Jun;32(6):692-8., Gerber PE, Lynd LD.
- 11) **Perinatal antidepressant exposure alters cortical network function in rodents,** Kimberly L. Simpson , Kristin J. Weaver, Etienne de Villers-Sidanic, Jordan Y.-F. Lua, Zhengwei Caid, Yi Pang, Federico Rodriguez-Porcel, Ian A. Paulb , Michael Merzenichc, and Rick C. S. Lina,b,1; Departments of Neurobiology and Anatomical Sciences, Psychiatry and Human Behavior, and Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Division of Newborn Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS 39216; and cW. M. Keck Center for Integrative Neuroscience, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22025710>
- 12) **Psychiatric drug-induced Chronic Brain Impairment (CBI): implications for long-term treatment with psychiatric medication.,** Int J Risk Saf Med. 2011;23(4):193-200. doi: 10.3233/JRS-2011-0542., Breggin PR.

- 13) Lexapro and Toxic encephalopathy - from FDA reports
- 14) Serotonin neurotoxicity, Implications for cognitive neuroscience and neurology, Mark D'Esposito, MD
- 15) DEATH BY MODERN MEDICINE: Seeking Safe Solutions, Carolyn Dean MD ND
- 16) Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors and CYP2D6, Updated: Sep 26, 2016, Author: Ali Torkamani, PhD
- 17) Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and cytochrome P-450 mediated drug-drug interactions: an update., Hemeryck A, et al. Curr Drug Metab. 2002.

Medical literature about other prolonged SSRI discontinuation symptoms

- 1) Persistent Adverse Neurological Effects Following SSRI Discontinuation (PANES), Dr Ben Green, MRCPsych, ILTM,
- 2) Newer antidepressants and the discontinuation syndrome, Haddad P., J Clin Psychiatry. 1997; 58 Suppl 7:17-21; discussion 22.

Medical literature about endocrine disruption caused by antidepressants

- 1) Evaluation of endocrine profile and hypothalamic-pituitary-testis axis in selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor-induced male sexual dysfunction, Safarinejad MR., J Clin Psychopharmacol. 2008 Aug;28(4):418-23.
- 2) Effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors on three sex steroids in two versions of the aromatase enzyme inhibition assay and in the H295R cell assay, Jacobsen NW, Hansen CH, Nellemann C, Styrisshave B, Halling-Sørensen B., Toxicol In Vitro. 2015 Oct; 29(7):1729-35.
- 3) Pharmaceuticals as neuroendocrine disruptors: lessons learned from fish on Prozac, Mennigen JA, Stroud P, Zamora JM, Moon TW, Trudeau VL., J Toxicol Environ Health B Crit Rev. 2011;14(5-7):387-412.
- 4) Does selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) fluoxetine affects mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis*?, Gonzalez-Rey M, Bebianno MJ., Environ Pollut. 2013 Feb; 173:200-9.
- 5) Effects of the antidepressant mianserin in zebrafish: Molecular markers of endocrine disruption, Karlijn van der Vena, Dorien Keila, Lotte N. Moensa, Paul Van Hummelenc, Piet van Remortelb, Marleen Marasa, Wim De Coena, Chemosphere, Volume 65, Issue 10, December 2006, Pages 1836–1845

- 6) Reproductive Assessment of Japanese Medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) Following a Four-Week Fluoxetine (SSRI) Exposure, Christy M. Foran, James Weston, Marc Slattery, Bryan W. Brooks, Duane B. Huggett, Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology, May 2004, Volume 46, Issue 4, pp 511-517
- 7) Waterborne fluoxetine disrupts the reproductive axis in sexually mature male goldfish, *Carassius auratus*, Jan A. Mennigena, Wudu E. Ladoa, Jake M. Zamoraa, Paula Duarte-Gutermana, Valérie S. Langloisa, Chris D. Metcalfeb, John P. Changc, Thomas W. Moonaa, Vance L. Trudeaua, Aquatic Toxicology, Volume 100, Issue 4, 15 November 2010, Pages 354–364
- 8) Serotonin reuptake inhibitor citalopram inhibits GnRH synthesis and spermatogenesis in the male zebrafish, Prasad P, Ogawa S, Parhar IS, Biol Reprod. 2015 Oct;93(4):102
- 9) Growth and development of tadpoles (*Xenopus laevis*) exposed to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, fluoxetine and sertraline, throughout metamorphosis, Deanna E. Conners, Emily D. Rogers, Kevin L. Armbrust, Jeong-Wook Kwon, Marsha C. Black, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Volume 28, Issue 12, December 2009, Pages 2671–2676
- 10) Global gene expression in larval zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) exposed to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (fluoxetine and sertraline) reveals unique expression profiles and potential biomarkers of exposure, June-Woo Parka, Tze Ping Heaha, Julia S. Gouffonb, Theodore B. Henrya, Gary S. Saylor, Environmental Pollution, Volume 167, August 2012, Pages 163–170