Paroxetine History and Information

An Australian review of Paroxetine uncovered evidence that the drug's manufacturer downplayed the deadly side effects and exaggerated its benefits. The study was published in the British Medical Journal and showed that Paroxetine was not effective and safe for young people as the pharmaceutical company claimed.

Paroxetine is one of the most potent of the SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors) and has shown a high incidence of dependence. Paroxetine is associated with a high incidence and severity of withdrawal symptoms (discontinuation syndrome) and therefore it is recommended to taper gradually to help minimize the discomfort.

Paxil was derived from Paroxetine, which was originally developed by Ferrosan, a Danish company who began researching the compound in the 1960s. By the 1970s Ferroson developed a paroxetine formula, called the 'Buus-Lassen compound', and patented it in the United States in 1977. SmithKline Pharmaceuticals bought the rights and research in 1980, made revisions and patented the new paroxetine formula in 1986.

The clinical trials were performed in under-developed countries and the results were called less-than-desired by industry insiders. SmithKline was able to compile sufficient positive data to obtain an FDA approval for the brand name Paxil in 1992 and by 2007 was the 5th most prescribed antidepressant drug in the United States.

The BBC reported in 2001 that the World Health Organization had ranked Paroxetine as the most difficult antidepressant to withdraw from. GlaxoSmithKline marketed the drug extensively as "non-habit forming" and yet this was proven to be false by numerous experts. More recently FDA scientists and other research institutions discovered that taking Paxil during pregnancy could dramatically increase the risk of serious birth defects including heart, lung, brain and spine defects, skull deformities, club foot, and abdominal defects. The FDA issued a Public Health Advisory for the use of Paxil during pregnancy and deemed a Category D pregnancy risk was required, meaning that there is clear risk to a human fetus when Paxil is taken during gestation. This category change, Public Health Advisory and notice to physicians all came after the drug had been on the market for more than 10 years.
as Medical Advice.
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*Because prescription medications can cause severe withdrawal reactions, do not stop taking any medication without first consulting your physician. The decision to taper any medication should be discussed with your doctor and done with their consent and support.