

Thursday, May 08, 2008

This is to be added to the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on " the use of psychotropic drugs for children in the foster care system".

I am a dentist and just got off the phone about a foster child who just became my patient. I was talking to the foster mother to get a corrected list of drugs that her foster child was prescribed.

This is a 10year old boy who has been removed for his mother because of his behavior. This 10 year old patient is on Rxs: Lithium 300 mg 2x/day, Lamictal 23mg /day, and Fluoxetine 20 mg/ day. I was astonished and called the foster mother to verify the medication for accuracy.

. She stated that he is diagnosed as Autism, Mood DX, and ADHD.

If you have given any observation of child behavior, you would have empathy for this case.

During treatment this patient was quiet and well behaved. I assume the standard we want for all children is quiet children who go unnoticed and who have no ambition to get into trouble.

We have an abused child who is angry and acting out to get attention and the doctor gives him psychotropic drugs to handle him. Well this is the wrong correction for the age of child.

Would it not be nice to find any physical maladies he may have and get him treatment if needed? Would it not be nice for a caring person to work with him to develop loving relationships with others and learn that he can help others and in turn he gets help as his reward? Would it not be nice to have a child have projects as a 10 year old level to get in exchange with society?. Would it not be nice to have a sane, well adjusted boy ready for a fruitful future and to produce this in others?

This is absurd for any child to be on this many medications, especially Lithium and Fluoxetine. These are adult medications.

So the answer is drugs to all our unwanted behavioral actions. This child is trapped in drugs forever and never can break free. Look at the adults who are on lithium. They only exist and get worse with time. The fate of many children is in your hands. May god be with you.

Carl Smudde
812 208 3866