Dear:

Here's a recap of blog posts and other news from the past month.

We had a huge response on RxISK to my interview with the Honest Apothecary, as well as to the Motherisk story in Maclean's magazine, There's a pill for that, and the Daily Mail's article Could your medicine give you a drink problem?

It was nice see see my series of blog posts on randomized controlled trials followed so closely by 1BoringOldMan.

Thank you for your support.

Your feedback, as always, is greatly appreciated.

David Healy, MD

In the news...

The Honest Apothecary: An interview with Dr. Healy

There are many roads one can travel on within the world of medicine. Some take their training down the pathway of clinical practice and patient care. Other will steer themselves toward the scholarly street of science and studies.
Daily Mail: Could your medicine give you a drink problem?
The disturbing side-effects even the manufacturers don't know about
Several years ago, Anne-Marie Cook, a 40-year-old health care
assistant from Surrey, was prescribed the antidepressant Seroxat after
she'd become anxious and withdrawn following the death of her father.

Maclean's magazine: There's a pill for that
A British Columbia class-action suit against the makers of Paxil is
putting the spotlight on a controversial issue: the growing use of
antidepressants during pregnancy. Yet a rising chorus of researchers is
questioning Motherisk's stance on SSRI use in pregnancy. One of the
most vocal is psychiatrist and psychopharmacologist David Healy,
director of the North Wales department of psychological medicine at
Cardiff University. Healy, who prescribes SSRIs selectively, says there's
no good data suggesting untreated depression is more dangerous to
mother and child than SSRIs.

Global News 16×9 investigation: Drug reactions
In a 16×9 investigation Sean O'Shea reveals what drug companies
knew about the effectiveness and side effects of antidepressants and
how the drugs got onto pharmacy shelves despite some glaring flaws.
Dr. David Healy is one of the experts interviewed.

Collegiate Times: Mental rehabilitation should focus on behavioural
therapy
Dr. David Healy, controversial British psychiatrist and founder of
RxISK.org, has recently come out with a statistic that states "some 90
percent of school shootings over more than a decade have been linked
to a widely prescribed type of antidepressant called selective serotonin
reuptake inhibitors or SSRIs."

BBC Radio: The Prozac Economy
Prozac is 25 years old. It has been taken by over 40 million people
around the world and made billions of dollars for Eli Lilly, the company
that created it. But does it work? And what effect has the promise of a
"happiness pill" had on society?

RxISK stories

Dr. Healy's North American and European speaking schedule
Internationally respected psychiatrist, psychopharmacologist, scientist,
and author Dr. David Healy will be lecturing and touring both Europe
and North America in the coming weeks on his mission to make
prescription drugs safer.
SoS: Dopamine Agonist Withdrawal Syndrome
Renny's story here chillingly outlines the misery of Dopamine Agonist Withdrawal Syndrome (DAWS). Below this we present data from RxISK.org's SoS Zone showing rates of SoS and related problems on Dopamine Agonists which fully bear out her personal ...

RxISK's SoS Zone: Symptoms on Stopping
Birth of the SoS Zone Backed into a corner by Panorama's Shelley Jofre in 2003, GSK's Alastair Benbow was faced with an accusation that GSK's Paxil - Seroxat was addictive. No its not he said. He had a snag though, ...

Trouble stopping your meds? New tool from RxISK can help
RxISK has added a Symptoms on Stopping (SoS) Zone to highlight and collect data on the side effects patients can experience when stopping a medication. "While many of us associate withdrawal with stopping things like cigarettes, heroin, or sleeping pills, we may not realize that commonly used prescription drugs for conditions such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, indigestion, and depression have withdrawal effects that can range from mild rebound symptoms to life-threatening crises", says RxISK Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dee Mangin.

From David's blog...
Brand fascism
This is the sixth in the Lasagna series of posts that began with Not So Bad Pharma, April Fool, Tragedy of Lou Lasagna, Empire of Humbug: Bad Pharma and will continue through to Witty A: Report to the President. Faced with questions about the $3 Billion fine imposed on GSK...

The empire of humbug: Not so bad pharma
This is the fifth is the Lasagna series of posts that began with Not So Bad Pharma, April Fool, Tragedy of Lou Lasagna, Empire of Humbug: Bad Pharma and will continue through to Brand Fascism and Witty A:
Report to the President. In 1954 soon after his article with Beecher put the placebo on...