

**May 2015**

Dear :

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

My latest article in The BMJ, [Serotonin and depression - The marketing of a myth](#), seems to have caused quite a stir, with Time, the Daily Mail Online, Psychology Today, and The Globe and Mail all covering "[the story](#)."

In other news, we have just updated [DavidHealy.org](#) so that it is now mobile-friendly. Please have a look and let me know what you think. My sincere thanks to everyone who helped with this project - especially Neil and James. I am grateful for all of your hard work.

We hope to be updating RxISK and some of the other websites linked to RxISK in the coming months. Stay tuned..

Thank you for your support.

Your feedback, as always, is greatly appreciated.



## RxISK stories

### [The Once and Future Abilify: Depot Injections for Everyone?](#)

This column is partly a report on the marketing of Abilify, the atypical antipsychotic that has become America's best-selling drug. The plans laid out by drugmakers Otsuka and Lundbeck for Abilify's future, and the cooperation they're getting from leading universities, are alarming enough to me that reporting on them seems inadequate. [Read More...][...»](#)

### [Abilify, Tourette Syndrome and You](#)

In our efforts to get our story told, raise awareness about the dangers of antipsychotics, and fight for better treatments for Tourette's Syndrome and its associated conditions, it was important to get our voice heard at the FDA. When we first discovered that a clinical trial called the Archer Study was seeking FDA approval of Abilify for the treatment of Tourette Syndrome, we were horrified... [Read More...][...»](#)

### [Abilify, Tourette Syndrome and Me](#)

After months of waiting, I was treated by a top neurologist and was prescribed Abilify to help manage my tics. Only an hour after taking my first dose, I started experiencing anxiety that was so scary I already wanted to get off the drug. I had an ominous feeling not of this earth that something bad was going to happen. [Read More...][...»](#)

### [Abilify From the Inside Out](#)

In last week's column, Dodging Abilify, I described the fan-club enthusiasm for this drug among doctors I've met, my own reluctance to try it, and what I'd learned about Abilify

from casual research. This week we'll hear some first-hand accounts of Abilify from the 34 people who have completed RxISK reports - twenty-seven patients, six relatives, and one doctor. As a group, they're a lot less gung-ho on Abilify. I'll summarize what they told us, then consider why the drug's still a bestseller. [Read More...][...»](#)



## From David's blog...

### [42 or Thereabouts](#)

In response to the recent BMJ editorial on serotonin and depression, there were seventeen letters of which three were published, along with my response. These are copied below along with the best letter - by

Barney Carroll - which wasn't published. Make your own mind up as to why. Another piece of minor intrigue is [\[...\]](#)[...»](#)

### [Compulsory vaccination and the media - the Australian experience](#)

This is another post on the vaccination and censorship theme. Elizabeth Hart's comments, over the past few weeks in response to some of the posts here, on efforts to stifle debate have been balanced and eloquent. Given the growing number of new journalism outlets, such as The Conversation, that portray themselves as tackling [\[...\]](#)[...»](#)

### [The Couric Incident: HPV Vaccine & Mass Bullying](#)

This post is by John Stone at my invitation. I am broadly speaking pro-Vaccination and reluctant to stray into the Vaccination Wars but the issues about free debate in recent posts seem most acute in this domain. Anyone who even thinks about questioning is vilified. There are important public policy issues involved in [\[...\]](#)[...»](#)

## [So Long and Thanks for all the Serotonin](#)

The BMJ article on The Marketing of Serotonin has stirred some interest. There are some highly technical comments on the BMJ site but of course the key point behind the piece is the rather obvious fact that twenty-five years ago many people were saying it was all a myth. The extraordinary Michael Leunig nailed it [...]...»

## [Switch on Anti Depression Today](#)

Science Media Centre Roundup Expert reaction to editorial on serotonin and depression as published in The BMJ. Dr Clare Stanford, Reader in Experimental Psychopharmacology, UCL, said: "Prof David Healy's article treads a path that is well-worn but out of date. He argues that selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRI) antidepressants are used because [...]...»

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