

This written and sent to “big pharma” in 2007, incensed about the damage some antipsychotic meds were doing to my peers. Ironically now, starting in 2018, I’ve been using Zyprexa as part of my meds regimen. These meds still make terrible weight gain but luckily so far hasn’t affected me. November 2021

Thanks for the Heartfelt advice!

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I'm shocked at the denial and misinformation in the ad inside the front cover of SZ Digest's Spring 07 issue. The two page spread titled "Heartfelt advice for people with schizophrenia" about diabetes, is generously offered by the mysteriously identified, "one of Canada's leading research based pharmaceutical companies".

I think most of us know from experience that there is a straight line easily drawn between several of the new anti-psychotics and massive weight gain, cholesterol levels jumping, and diabetes.

To cloak this deceptive pr piece as a caring health message, served up as a two page spread - one of those pages a beautiful, lean, woman's face - is the height of hypocrisy.

Listing the "multiple factors for Type 2 diabetes, such as a family history of diabetes, higher risk ethnic origin, obesity, and low activity level" and then to tack on innocently "it has been suggested that schizophrenia, AND PERHAPS THE MEDICATIONS THAT ARE USED TO TREAT IT, ****MIGHT**** be an additional risk for diabetes" - is the height of misdirection.

I noticed a news item in the current BP magazine Spring 07, (sister publication to SZ Digest), titled, "Scientists may have solved the weight gain riddle"

"Scientists...believe they have uncovered how and why some powerful medications used to treat mental disorders cause people to gain so much weight that they can develop life-threatening complications, such as heart disease and diabetes."

So many of my friends and acquaintances have bloated up with this stuff - Olanzapine/Zyprexa especially - which is now being liberally prescribed by doctors for both SZ and BP - that it doesn't take a "leading research-based" pharma giant to see what the cause is. The medications do work well for many to help them with immediate symptoms, but it is causing a whole new set of problems.

The ad helpfully, again innocently, mentions "The first step in preventing or delaying onset of these [previously listed and grim] complications is recognising factors, as well as signs and symptoms of diabetes."

Hello!!

One's first step should be critically looking at this mis-information!

For years I've been annoyed by "helpful advice" in SZ Digest about how users of these meds can keep the weight down by getting off the bus and walking that extra block or two. Or scoot up those few flights of stairs, instead of taking the elevator. I know several very motivated, strong-willed folks who, after being prescribed this stuff, have undertaken ambitious exercise programs and still packed the weight on, driven by an unquenchable hunger and an apparently changed metabolism.

How about SZ Digest doing a series of before and after shots of folks on these meds with comments on how hard they've worked to keep their weight down, how the meds made their cravings and changed body chemistry pack on the weight? And how do they feel about now having another chronic, serious condition? And then follow up with a realistic warning and some tips on how to safely wean off these medications as soon as possible?

This "Heartfelt" email complaint brought to you by "one of Canada's leading reality-based consumer/care providers".

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Movie Monday www.movie monday.ca