



Deadly medicine (Part 2) – Systemic error in our health care?



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Good evening. Our first broadcast on 'Deadly Medicine' dealt with the question: "Deadly medicine – ignorance or premeditated murder?"

In this second part we want to follow the question whether this could be from a systemic error in our health care that results in deathly medication often not being retracted from the market. Let's have a look at some more arguments from the book of the Danish medical specialist Peter C. Gøtzsche with the title: "Deadly medicine and organized crime – how the pharmaceutical industry corrupts the health system". Gøtzsche especially criticizes the fact that pharmaceutical companies are allowed to decide for themselves the methods of testing new medication, the way they evaluate the data, and what they eventually pass on to drug authorities as well as to the public. We have a system in which the pharmaceutical companies are their own judges. These would make their own studies and often manipulate them to a terrific extent. In our first broadcast we gave a detailed example.

Gøtzsche speaks of the pharma marketing as being especially dangerous, that is the marketing of the medication. The lies would be so obvious most of the time that the companies would claim the exact opposite of the truth. The main reason why the pharmaceutical companies time and again succeed in concealing the danger of medication and still bring them on the market despite of the danger, he says, is the money of the pharmaceutical industry. Anyone having influence on the health system shall be bought, Gøtzsche says. The industry would succeed in bribing important people on all levels – even up to health ministers. John Virapen, former managing director of the US-pharmaceutical corporation "Eli Lilly" and manager of the Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk confirms this. For instance Virapen wrote in a book released in 2006 of manipulations in the approval of the antidepressant 'Prozac' in Sweden. In this process he bribed professors, appraisers and state officials. From this practice, according to Gøtzsche, you can derive more reasons on why harmful medication is not retracted from the market. For example: Drug authorities who are too soft or trade magazines that publish faulty studies. Trade magazines would do that because the pharmaceutical companies would afterwards purchase these special editions for a lot of money. They would then continue to send these special editions to doctors in order to mislead them about the effects of the medication. Gøtzsche continues to say that some doctors would be willing executors, would easily accept gifts and invitations to expensive further training. Upon inquiry by Kla.TV a Swiss family physician confirmed this. According to him, it is too hard for many physicians to resist being enticed and being manipulated by such gifts.

Further main reasons for death cases according to Gøtzsche are: -Overtreatment with medication, -the intake of too many diverse drugs at the same time, - too little knowledge

about the dangers of medication – and thousands of warnings that no doctor can keep in his head. Almost every medication has 20 or more safety warnings and contraindications so that it would be impossible to know them all. In this respect the doctors can hardly be blamed. Ladies and gentlemen, so far Gøtzsche's most important arguments which can give a possible answer to our question that we raised in the beginning: "Deadly medicine – A systemic error in our health care?" For Gøtzsche the answer seems to be clear. He demands nothing less than a systemic change. Pharmaceutical companies should no longer be allowed to perform their own tests because of the conflict of interest. Instead governmental agencies should take care of that. Gøtzsche continues proposing a simple ban on all pharmaceutical advertising.

Good medication would always prevail. To the ordinary person on the street Gøtzsche recommends to take medication only in emergency situations which he doesn't exclude at all. For with many medical drugs, the dangers exceed the benefit, as he shows in detail in his book. These thoughts from Peter Gøtzsche are really worth thinking about. In the end though, everyone is responsible himself for how he deals with it. Have a good evening.

from dd.

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