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SWEDISH RITALIN IN CHILD SUICIDES

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A search of the archives at the Swedish Medical Products Agency has revealed astonishing results: Papers showing that Ritalin, prescribed to children with the diagnosis ADHD, not only causes depression, but has led to suicides and suicide attempts. They also indicate that the MPA knew about these disastrous effects when it approved Ritalin in June of this year, yet no warnings were given to physicians or the public.

The story carried on 24-7PressRelease.com, also notes that, in America, the FDA announced June 28 that Ritalin and other methylphenidate drugs had been linked to "visual hallucinations, suicidal ideation, psychotic behavior, as well as aggression or violent behavior" although "nothing was said about suicides or suicide attempts." Similar conditions in Britain in 2003, around the GlaxoSmithKline drug Seroxat (Paxil), revealed that the company already five years earlier had known that the drug increased the suicide risk in children, which led to a ban on Seroxat against prescriptions to children.

The discovery of the Swedish documents could lead to similar proscriptions on Ritalin, despite its popular use in American schools for taming unruly students. However, the article continues, the latest step by the MPA was to declare the document revealing the suicides as "classified information" to prevent "harm" to "the pharmaceutical company in question." The writers of the article conclude by asking, "This medical scandal also involves the FDA. The agency can be expected to have known about the deadly effects of Ritalin - but did not act. What is buried in the files of the FDA?" - ST

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