

# PROZAC

## LILLY'S "MIRACLE" DRUG



• On September 14, 1989, Joseph Wesbecker went into the Standard Gravure Building in Louisville, Kentucky and opened fire on co-workers, killing eight and wounding twelve others before killing himself. At the time of his rampage, Wesbecker had a "therapeutic" level of Prozac in his blood.

Despite denials from the manufacturer, Eli Lilly and Company, the coroner's jury ruled that the psychiatric drug Wesbecker had been taking may have been a factor contributing to his wild behavior.

The coroner stated during the hearings that Lilly had not provided him with information on any connection between Prozac and violence.

In 1988 a number of reports had been filed by Eli Lilly and Company with the FDA regarding Prozac. None of these reports were supplied to the coroner's jury.

One of those described a woman who, while on Prozac, experienced an "intense, homicidal rage" in which she made plans to murder a man from her past. According to the report, when the Prozac was discontinued, the aggression subsided.

Another report described an assault with a deadly weapon by a patient who had been on Prozac for just one week.

A third report forwarded by Lilly to the FDA concerned a man who died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound a month after his Prozac dosage was increased.

A study conducted by the Harvard Medical School, published in the February 1990

edition of the American Journal of Psychiatry, clearly documented the ability of Prozac to generate "intense, violent suicidal thoughts."

According to the study, six patients developed an obsessive preoccupation with suicide after starting on Prozac. These suicidal thoughts persisted for as long as three months after coming off the drug.

The Harvard research team stated, "Two patients fantasized, for the first time, about killing themselves with a gun, and one patient actually placed a loaded gun to her head. One patient needed to be physically restrained to prevent self-mutilation."

### Victims Fight Back

On July 17, 1990, Rhonda Hala of Shirley, New York, filed a \$150 million lawsuit charging that the psychiatric drug Prozac had driven her to repeatedly attempt suicide by slashing herself with razor-sharp objects.

On July 25, 1990, three widows of the Joseph Wesbecker massacre filed individual lawsuits seeking

\$50 million each from Lilly, charging that their husbands were slaughtered by a man driven murderously insane by Prozac.

The volume of suits that have been filed against Lilly for Prozac-induced violence has prompted the American Trial Lawyers Association to form a Prozac litigation section to help assist the many member attorneys who have been contacted by persons seriously harmed by Prozac.

A nationwide group, The Prozac Survivors Support Group (PSSG), has been established in cities around the country to help persons damaged by Prozac.

The FDA has received 14,765 "adverse reaction reports" concerning the drug Prozac in three years.

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights, a reform organization founded by the Church of Scientology, has been campaigning for the rights of mental patients since 1969, has received over 100 reports that claim violent incidents of murder and suicide in connection with the ingestion of Prozac. Yet Prozac is still on the market and people are still dying.

**Look for the special advertising supplement on TIME magazine appearing June 14 in USA Today.**

Published as a public service by the Church of Scientology International