



Deadly medicine – ignorance or premeditated murder?



Deadly medicine – is it mere ignorance or an intentional error of the system? We heartily welcome you from our Klagemauer TV studio.

Deadly medicine – is it mere ignorance or an intentional error of the system? We heartily welcome you from our Klagemauer TV studio. In November 2014 a highly disputed book by the renowned Danish medicine professor Peter C. Gøtzsche was published in German. Its title is: "Deadly medicine and organized crime – how the pharmaceutical industry corrupts the health system". From various scientific studies Gøtzsche concluded that in the USA 100,000 people die from drugs every year even though they take them as prescribed. A further 100,000 die from mistakes such as too high doses for instance. The European Commission had estimated that every year about 200,000 EU citizens would die from side effects.

On top of that there are uncounted numbers of unidentified cases and deaths which are claimed to be from supposedly natural or unknown causes.

Drugs are supposedly the third-leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer. Additionally there are millions of people each year suffering from severe drug side effects. The Swiss Radio and Television, SRF in short, took a close look at this book and had to admit that many of the facts from this book are already well known and not controversial at all – for instance, I quote SRF "that the anti-rheumatism drug <Vioxx> caused ten thousands of patients to die because of concealed side effects."

Nevertheless, SRF criticizes Gøtzsche saying that he tries to make things look like premeditated murder. He even goes so far as to accuse the pharmaceutical industry of committing organized crime. SRF states that the harm that is done to patients would develop in a much more differentiated way – I quote "through negligence, ignorance, adjustment pressure – supported by self-interests and the large amount of money that is at stake". While SRF relativizes the statements of Gøtzsche and lets the pharmaceutical industry get away with a black eye, Kla.TV brings the

counter-voice. Everyone shall form his own opinion whether it is mere "ignorance" or premeditated murder by the pharmaceutical industry after all. First, it needs to be said who Peter C. Gøtzsche is. Professor Gøtzsche is a medical specialist for internal medicine, performed clinical studies for pharmaceutical companies for many years and worked in drug approval. 1993 he was co-founder of the Cochrane Collaboration, a network of scientists and doctors. As its director Gøtzsche stands in for independent analyses in health research worldwide. Since 2010 he passes on his knowledge to students at the University of Copenhagen. In his book Gøtzsche shows why pharmaceutical companies succeed time and again to push useless or even dangerous drugs onto the market: It is supposedly common to falsify the results of medication tests and conceal the dangers of drugs.

Furthermore one would find the footprints of money everywhere in the pharmaceutical industry – anyone having influence on the health system shall be bought.

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One example from Gøtzsche's book: In the year 2001 the British company Glaxo-SmithKline published a study with children and teenagers, referred to as Glaxo-study 329. The report states that "Paxil", a psychotropic drug mainly for depression, is effective and has minimal side effects. Many believed this study and up until the year 2010 it was cited no less than 184 times.

But as was later revealed the study was a fraud. For it was the Attorney General of New York State who accused GlaxoSmithKline of repeated persistent consumer's deception. They were said to have concealed the side effects of "Paxil". As a consequence the company had to reveal their archives in order to obtain a settlement. The final internal report of the study, which wasn't published, showed that at least nine children who had been treated with "Paxil" had committed suicide. Despite of this fact, "Paxil" was prescribed millions of times every year and caused death to countless numbers of young people and adults. An internal document was said to show that the company was well aware of this, I quote from the company's internal document: "It would be inacceptable in terms of business to make known that the effectiveness has not been proven, for this would hurt the renown of Paxil." One thing seems to be clear: it's hard to talk of ignorance here! Furthermore, when it comes to the pharmaceutical industry other laws seem to apply compared to other branches when a product might endanger lives. Like in the automobile industry for instance, vehicles are withdrawn from the traffic in high numbers as soon as a possible accidental risk shows itself. In the pharma industry however this mostly does not seem to be the case. Gøtzsche documents two reasons for this being the case: On the one hand the reason being that the causes of death to medication are often kept secret and on the other hand because the causes of death due to medication are not being researched and can therefore be easily attributed to other circumstances.

Help to expose where damaging or even deadly medication is not removed from the market. Send your complaint to klagemauer.tv, if you hear of any such thing happening. And do not miss our next broadcast on this topic which will deal with the question: Might all this be about an error in our health care which results in deathly medication not being retracted from the market? A good evening to you.

from dd

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