

Electroshock: Therapy or Torture? Exhibit Held in Tallahassee Rotunda

Hundreds of people visited the exhibit learning about the dangers of electroshock with many of them signing a petition to ban this brutal practice.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, March 3, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Florida chapter of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), a mental health watchdog that investigates and exposes abuses in the mental health industry, held a two-day exhibit on electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), also known as electroshock, in the Florida Capitol last week. According to CCHR, one of the worst abuses in mental health today is the continued use of ECT, particularly on the vulnerable, including children, pregnant women and the elderly. The exhibit provided facts on the dangers of ECT and free copies of a documentary entitled "Therapy or Torture? The Truth about Electroshock". The documentary, produced by CCHR International, exposes the inhumane practice and its damaging effects, including cognitive and memory dysfunction, neuropathological changes, brain damage and death. [1] [2]



Children between the ages of 0–5 are being shocked under the guise of "treatment" and the FDA has never required clinical studies that prove electroshock is either safe or effective, despite being used for more than 80 years.

Visiting public and lawmakers learned that ECT sends up to 460 volts of electricity through the brain in order to induce a grand mal seizure, a type of seizure that involves a loss of consciousness and violent muscle contractions, masked by an anesthetic. Many visitors to the exhibit were surprised to find out that the FDA has never required clinical studies that prove electroshock is either safe or effective, despite being used for more than 80 years. [3] Comments from those seeing the exhibit included: "This (ECT) is medieval." "Why would it be done on young children?" "Why is this done?" Many people did not know electroshock was still practiced in modern times. Several people who stopped by the exhibit related their own personal experience with a friend or family member who was never the same after receiving this "treatment."

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*Dr. Norman Shealy,
Neurosurgeon*

Another fact exposed was while psychiatrists claim modern Electroshock (ECT) is less brutal than it used to be (as accurately portrayed in the Academy-Award-winning film *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*) when patients used to break bones from the violent convulsions it produced, the voltage and amperage in today's ECT is actually higher. [4] The muscle relaxants now administered make it appear less brutal, but it's not. The side effects of the most commonly used muscle relaxant for ECT include: cardiac arrest, prolonged respiratory muscle paralysis and potentially life-threatening and/or fatal allergic reactions. [5] [6]

According to Dr. Norman Shealy, Neurosurgeon, "One fact about ECT: It damages the brain. Period... ECT should have been banned 50 years ago."

CCHR is very much in agreement with this viewpoint and is calling for a ban on the use of the ECT device not just in Florida but across the country. Individuals are encouraged to [report instances of damage and death as a result of ECT](#) and to [sign the petition to ban ECT in Florida](#) and [nationally](#).

About CCHR: Initially established by the Church of Scientology and renowned psychiatrist Dr. Thomas Szasz in 1969, CCHR's mission is to eradicate abuses committed under the guise of mental health and enact patient and consumer protections. L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, first brought psychiatric imprisonment to wide public notice: "Thousands and thousands are seized without process of law, every week, over the 'free world' tortured, castrated, killed. All in the name of 'mental health,'" he wrote in March 1969. For more information please visit www.cchrflorida.org.

[1] "Electric shock in pregnancy: a review," *The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine*, Vol. 29, 2014, Issue 2,

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.3109/14767058.2014.1000295?journalCode=ijmf20>.

[2] <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/advances-in-psychiatric-treatment/article/memory-and-cognitive-effects-of-ect-informing-and-assessing-patients/DD5C63934357779765BA7ADF308275AE>



The headquarters for CCHR Florida are located in downtown Clearwater.



The Citizens Commission on Human Rights is a non-profit mental health watchdog dedicated to the eradication of abuses committed under the guise of mental health.

[3] Jonathan Emord & Associates, Citizens Petition filed with the FDA Commissioner, 14 Aug. 2016, pp. 14, 27 and 42, <http://emord.com/blawg/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/1-ECT-Citizen-Petition.pdf>.

4) "An Analysis of Reported Deaths Following Electroconvulsive Therapy in Texas, 1993-1998," 1 Aug 2001, <https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ps.52.8.1095>

[4] Op. cit., John Breeding, Ph.D., "Electroshocking Children: Why It Should Be Stopped"; John Breeding, Ph.D., "Chapter 9: Electroshock," http://www.wildestcolts.com/psych_op/d-electroshock/1-shock.html

[5] Nancy Kerner and Joan Prudic, "Current electroconvulsive therapy practice and research in the geriatric population," Neuropsychiatry (London), Feb 2014, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4000084/>

[6] Anectine® (Succinylcholine Chloride Injection, USP) Label, FDA.gov, http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2010/008453s0271bl.pdf

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With no clinical trials proving its safety, ECT treatment plays Russian roulette with the lives of vulnerable people who are often ill-informed about its long-term effects, including, according to an ECT device manufacturer, permanent brain damage.



Side effects of ECT include amnesia (substantial and permanent memory loss), confusion, disorientation, apathy, disinterest, headaches, nausea, slowed reaction time, lowered intellectual function and death.

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