

From: [APA Communications](#)
To: lpmastaff@lpma.net
Subject: APA Headlines: Risk For Substance Abuse May Be Lower When AD/HD Medications Are Started Earlier And Taken Longer, Study Finds
Date: Monday, July 18, 2016 7:18:35 AM

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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

July 18, 2016

Leading The News

Risk For Substance Abuse May Be Lower When AD/HD Medications Are Started Earlier And Taken Longer, Study Finds.

[HealthDay](#) (7/15, Doheny) reported that the risk for substance abuse appears to be lower when stimulant medications for the treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) are "started earlier and taken longer," research suggests. Involved in the study were 3,500 high school seniors "prescribed stimulant medication for" AD/HD "and 1,300 who were prescribed non-stimulant medicine." The findings were published in the June issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Psychiatric News Alert



[Senate Passes Addiction Treatment Legislation](#)

[Study Highlights Role of Triggers in Short-Term Risk of Violence](#)

Nominations Due Soon for Several APA Awards

[Human Rights Award](#)

Deadline: July 20

Recognizes the extraordinary efforts of an individual or organization to promote human rights of populations with mental health needs.

[Award for Research in Psychiatry](#)

Deadline: July 25

Recognizes a single distinguished contribution, a body of work or a lifetime contribution that has had a significant impact on the field and/or altered the practice of psychiatry.

[Health Services Research Award](#)

Deadline: July 25

Honors an early career psychiatrist and a senior APA member for outstanding contributions to the field of psychiatric health services research.



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Estrogen Patches May Reduce Risk For Alzheimer's In Newly Postmenopausal Women, Small Study Suggests.

[AFP-Relaxnews](#) (7/15) reported, "Estrogen patches, used as hormone therapy for newly postmenopausal women, could cut the risk of Alzheimer's disease," research suggests. The findings of the 68-woman study were published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

Depression May Contribute To Subclinical Atherosclerosis In Women With SLE.

[MedPage Today](#) (7/17, Kuznar) reports that research suggests “depression may contribute to subclinical atherosclerosis in women with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).” In the study, “ultrasound evaluation revealed increased progression of carotid intima media thickness (CIMT) in women with SLE compared with controls, but no increase in the presence of carotid plaques.” Investigators found that “the association between depression and increased progression of CIMT in women with SLE was independent of baseline values of traditional cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors, including age, body mass index (BMI), cholesterol level, hypertension, diabetes status, and corticosteroid usage.” The [findings](#) of the 275-participant study were published online in *Arthritis Care & Research*.

Government and Psychiatry

Hopes Dimming For Passage Of Mental Health Bill In Senate This Year.

The [NBC News](#) (7/17, Merod) website reported that last week, by a vote of 422-2, the House of Representatives passed [HR 2646](#), the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, considered to be “one of the most significant bills targeting mental health reform since 1963.” Even though “Congress just began its seven-week recess Thursday, advocates say they’re optimistic a similar bill could pass in the Senate by the end of the year.”

[The Hill](#) (7/17, Sullivan) reported, however, that “hopes are dimming for passage of a mental health bill in the Senate this year.” Proposed “legislation offered by Sens. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) and Bill Cassidy (R-La.) may have to wait until 2017.” This is because “a tougher battle has emerged in the Senate over the politics of guns.” Should the mental health measure become embroiled in “a fight over the divisive issue of gun control, many fear the legislation would be sunk.” Even if guns do not become an issue, should mental health legislation not pass the Senate before the election in November, “there would be little time to get it through this Congress.”

Psychiatry and Public Health

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Number Of Practicing Psychiatrists In The US Has Stalled Over Past Decade, Study Finds.

[MedPage Today](#) (7/17) reported, “The number of practicing psychiatrists in the US has stalled over the last decade,” research suggests. After analyzing “data from the Health Resources and Services Administration,” researchers found “a 0.2% decline in the number of psychiatrists in practice, compared with increases for neurologists (35.7%), primary care physicians (9.5%), and all practicing physicians (14.2%).” The [findings](#) (7/18) were published in the July issue of *Health Affairs*.

NYTimes: Veteran Suicides Are Too High, And The VA’s Crisis Center Is Not Helping.

The [New York Times](#) (7/16, Subscription Publication) editorializes that the suicide rate for American veterans constitutes a “national emergency,” citing the 7,403 veteran suicides in 2014 alone, and says the VA’s safety net – its

Veterans Crisis Line – is “badly frayed.” The Times argues that the only real solution is to give the VA a serious overhaul aimed at providing greater access to mental health resources and a “well-run crisis center,” but the paper is not optimistic, saying numerous reform plans have been put forth in the past but “every year brings new failures.”

APA in the News

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Social Stigma Surrounding Mental Illness Is Greatest Hindrance To Effective Psychiatric Care, Psychiatrist Says.

In a patient advice column in [US News & World Report](#) (7/15), psychiatrist and American Psychiatric Association (APA) past president Jeffrey Lieberman, MD, wrote that over the past five decades, “progress in science and technology...has dramatically changed the scientific basis and therapeutic capability of psychiatry.” These days, “the greatest hindrance to effective care is not a gap in medical knowledge or a shortcoming in effective treatments, but the enduring social stigma of mental illness and the understandable – but no longer warranted – lack of confidence in the competence of psychiatrists.” Patients needing a referral to a psychiatrist should start with their own primary care physician, but district branches of the APA can also help patients “find a well-trained a competent psychiatrist.”

Other News

Study Examines Subtypes Of MCI In Patients With Parkinson’s.

[MedPage Today](#) (7/15, Fiore) reported, "Parkinson's patients with mild cognitive impairment (PD-MCI) are likely to have executive dysfunction, and are more likely to have non-amnestic disease," research suggests. Researchers also found that "after non-amnestic single domain MCI, the largest subtypes of participants were amnestic multiple domain (30.5%), non-amnestic multiple domain (23.4%), and amnestic single domain (6.7%)." The findings of the 269-patient [study](#) were published online July 8 in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.

FDA Staff Reviewers Split Over Brodalumab's Suicide Risk.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/15, Edney) reported that Food and Drug Administration staff reviewers "had differing opinions" on whether Valeant Pharmaceuticals' experimental psoriasis medication, brodalumab, should "include a warning that it may be linked to suicidal thoughts and behavior" or be studied in "new clinical trials to better understand the risks." An FDA advisory panel "will consider the report and data from Valeant when they meet Tuesday to consider whether the" medication "should be approved with only a warning label or other methods to restrict use as well."

[Reuters](#) (7/15, Clarke) reported that in clinical trials for brodalumab, "there were six suicides across all programs: four in psoriasis studies, one in a rheumatoid arthritis study and one in a psoriatic arthritis study." FDA reviewers cautioned that if approved, brodalumab has the potential to be prescribed to a large number of patients by physicians who may lack experience screening and diagnosing suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Friday's Lead Stories

- **[Medicare Spending Per Person Peaks At Age 73, Report Says.](#)**
- **[Stroke Survivors Who Had Hypertension, Other Heart Risk Factors Prior To Stroke May Face Greater Risk For Another Stroke, Dementia Years Later.](#)**
- **[Massachusetts Health Connector Eliminates Co-Pays For Addiction Treatment.](#)**
- **[Only A Minority Of People Who Are Obese Suffer From Psychological Issues, Expert Says.](#)**
- **[New Research Consortium Launched Aimed At Speeding Development Of Therapies For Alzheimer's Disease.](#)**
- **[Palliative Care Counseling For Families Of Patients With Chronic Illnesses May Not Be Effective, Study Suggests.](#)**

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