

ing psychotherapy for a character disorder. One patient tolerated sequential agents very well for a year but suffered psychotic episodes with only 1 month of combination drug use on separate occasions before and after the use of the sequential agents.

This would seem to raise a question as to whether there is not some increased risk in using these drugs in persons with known psychiatric illness. There have been two additional reports of psychotic reactions in the world literature. Idestrom reported another case of psychosis upon withdrawal of drug; in this case, norethindrone. Sturgis reports recurrence of psychosis in a patient participating in the prospective study of drug effects.

The frequency of a prior psychiatric history among those who had psychosis prompted us to undertake a study comparing normal women with psychiatric patients as regards their reactions to regular use of the pill. In this situation, we were comparing women who were regular users on a retrospective basis. We were asking them questions about their previous use.

One hundred and thirty-nine married women who had never had psychiatric care were compared with 64 women who had previous history of psychiatric care. These were private patients attending clinics at the North Carolina Memorial Hospital, while the psychiatric patients were private patients hospitalized on our wards. Among those without previous psychiatric care, 64 percent of the 139 women reported feeling different than their previous selves. Depression 34 percent, irritability 29 percent, and lethargy 24 percent were most often seen. About 10 percent of these women had increased well-being only, meaning they felt more peppy and had increased vigor. In other words, 10 percent of the users stated in some instances they felt better than they ever had before. Another 2 percent reported an increase in sexual pleasure only. Thus, 52 percent of the entire sample reported undesirable consequences of using the pill. Decreases in sexual desire or capacity for sexual pleasure were found far more often than an increase. When those with symptoms were compared with those without symptoms on a variety of background figures, factors usually associated with neuroticism, such as disability of the menses and significantly decreased frequency of sexual intercourse and capacity for sexual pleasure were found to discriminate the two groups. In other words, the people who had reactions seemed on history to be psychiatrically more loaded.

About 15 percent of these women who complained about the effects of the drug stopped the medication for this reason, while another 10 percent reported they had wanted to but had been dissuaded from doing so by their physician. Perhaps the most extreme of these was the wife of a member of the health professions who complained to her husband that she had become depressed and was having suicidal ideas. She had never felt this way before and wondered if the oral contraceptive medication might be involved. He assured her that this could not be so because such complaints were not included in the list of side effects on the package insert which accompanied the medication.

Senator NELSON. May I ask what date was that?