BENZODIAZEPINES TIMELINE - PART 1 (LIBRIUM, VALIUM & MOGAD

Source: Power and Dependence (Charles Medawar)

exclusively for insomnia, which becomes the most prescribed hypnotic in the UK. (1965) benzodiazepine, Mogador Roche introduces a third (nitrazepam), promoted

barbiturates to Mogadon, under

Doctors are encouraged to switch patients over from

belief that it's much safer in

overdose, and carries less risk

of dependence. (1973)

marketed under the brand name Roche designs and launches a new drug, diazepam. It's

symptoms are identical to those

A published report on Librium

states that withdrawal

barbiturate-like drugs. (Hollister

found from barbiturates or

Valium (1963)

Roche mount successive appeals Librium and Valium succeed in the US government proposal and lobby intensively against escaping regulation (1973)

before, the US recommends that **Abuse Control Amendments** Following hearings the year scheduled under the Drug both Librium & Valium be

Developed by Hoffman La Roche

(Librium) is introduced in the US (US branch), chlorodiazepoxide

(1959)

dependence - even if they stop producing a hypnotic effect. Evidence later suggests that these drugs could cause

to test both Librium and Valium Roche invites Dr H Angus Bowes

both, but prefers Valium. (1965)

He gives favourable reviews or

effective after short periods of

continuous use (1974)

It's established by Dr Anthony

Kales that benzodiazepenes become increasingly less

Librium is introduced in the UK.

(1960)

1955

1960

1970

1975

1980

shown visible signs of addiction Valium, Dr Bowes observes hov treating many patients with some of his patients have However, in the course of







BENZODIAZEPINES TIMELINE - PART 2 (SERENID-D & A

Source: Power and Dependence (Charles Medawar)

conclusions, many experts begin Despite the popularity of Marks benzodiazepene consumption. to question the high levels of (1978)

> WHO reclassification of risk from benzodiazepenes, suggesting a The Director of Medical Studies "moderate" to "low" (1978) (Dr John Marks) publishes a book largely in favour of

benzodiazepene dependence Following the publicity from a sales of the drug in the UK BBC TV report survey on

begin to decline (1985)

lorazepam, known as Ativan Wyeth introduces the drug

under the brand name Serenid

Brother introduces oxazepam The company John Wyeth &

1960

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1990

After being rejected twice,

the World Health

Government takes steps towards drug regulation (1973)

conclusion about dependence as Influenced by Dr Marks' book, Medicines (CRM) publishes its The Committee on Review of report on benzodiazepenes. Marks had done. (1980) they arrive at the same

encountered", making Ativan "a discovered in a clinical trial by Dr Rene De Buck, but are Side effects of Ativan are very safe drug". (1972) concluded to be "rarely

> dependence are published in the are dismissed by Wyeth. (1972) British Journal of Psychiatry, yet Reports of Serenid-D

committee is eventually able

to persuade the UN

Organisation (WHO)

documents increased withdrawa A report from Dr Oswald's sleep research team in Edinburgh symptoms from

benzodiazepenes scheduled

Drugs to get 33 different Commission on Narcotic

benzodiazepenes. (1976)





to newborn children) withdrawa A report of neonatal (pertaining symptoms are also published (Athinarayanan et al, 1976)

DIAZEPINES TIMELINE - PART 3 (HALCION)

Source: Power and Dependence (Charles Medawar)

Professor Oswald writes to the views that Halcion "should no Lancet publication, stating his longer be sold". (1989)

> (Pennsylvania) establishes that Halcion be withdrawn. (1991) Halcion (0.5mg) consistently impairment. Partly on these produces next-day memory grounds, he suggests that sleep research team

A new report from Dr Kales'

The US-based UpJohn company introduces triazolam (Halcion) into the Dutch market. (1979)

Medicines (CSM) quietly re-The Committee on Safety of investigates Halcion. (1989) for use at a lower dose. (1990) reinstatement of Halcion, but authorities allow the In August, the Dutch

To this day Halcion is banned in the UK, but is still available in other parts of the world. (Present)

1985

1975

1980

a public scare, Halcion's licence However in mid-1979, following in Holland is initially withdrawn for 6 months (1979)

1995

2000

2005

2010

1990

large out of court settlement o murdered her mother. (1991) a claim that a patient, under the influence of Halcion, had In the US, UpJohn makes a

The re-investigation of Halcior psychiatric ADRs from a 1972 in the US forces UpJohn to disclose crucial data about trial on prisoners. (1991)

CSM asks UpJohn to withdraw Upon receiving the data, the the drug. They refuse, so the Halcion's licence. (1991) **UK** authorities suspend





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