

PTSD or Mefloquine Toxicity?

Psychology Military Resilience

Digital Presentation

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Experimental (Theoretical)

Abstract: After more than a decade at war, our returning service members and their families are facing enormous amounts of difficulty when returning home. PTSD and TBI, the signature wounds of these wars, have been well covered in the media. The family struggles have remained hidden and mostly undiscussed. These families are facing very specific issues in military relationships like infidelity, substance misuse, and intimate partner violence; the latter of which military families are three times more likely to experience when compared to the civilian population. There is a potential effect on caregiver burden in the role of PTSD as a factor for relationship difficulties. These are some of the more common relationship issues in a marriage where PTSD is present. Yet there seems to be a darker side to all of this. The National Center for PTSD says that the majority of veterans with PTSD are not dangerous, but having PTSD puts you at a higher risk for committing violent acts. With the current suicide rate of 22 veterans every day and the higher rates of domestic violence this paper is researching the possibility of being wrong about PTSD or potentially there may be some x factor that has not been looked at yet. Mefloquine is an anti-malaria pill given to our military members that is know to confound the diagnoses of PTSD and TBI. This literary review will assess the difficulties that these veterans and family members are facing, look at the different possibilities of what is making veterans more dangerous, and evaluate the literature surrounding Mefloquine. For future work,

designing a way to test for Mefloquine toxicity could potentially help many veterans who have been accused of malingering.

Christian worldview integration: Being a Christian and what God has instilled in my heart has had a profound effect on my work, my choice to return to school, and research. My desire to work with veterans and their families came from my husband returning from service in 2004. God gave me the strength to keep fighting for my marriage and doing everything I could to make it work. With our marriage coming apart at the seams rapidly, it wasn't until 2009 that my husband was finally able to be seen at the VA and later diagnosed with PTSD. The more I learned about PTSD, the more I realized that if I would have been educated about PTSD, I could have had a positive effect on our marriage. The majority of our issues was a normal PTSD symptom that I did not understand, and took things very personally and reacted poorly because of that. In 2010, I co-founded the nonprofit Military with PTSD with my husband, and our goal and mission is to help marriages. We believe you can not change what you don't understand and many spouses like myself react in negative ways because we do not understand what is happening. We help marriages through educating couples about PTSD and sharing our story. God has given me the tools to do his work and the opportunity to return to school to get even more education so I can continue to his will. Helping military marriages stay together and keeping families together is work I am proud to do.