

Udsnit af engelsk stil/essay, der diskuterer fordele og ulemper ved 'memory erasing pills':

[...]

**[redegørende: hvad er det og analyserende: hvordan virker det]**

Recent research reported by Fox News<sup>1</sup> has found that a drug called Propranolol, formerly used to regulate patients' blood pressure and heart rhythm, has the ability to blunt the emotional response to a traumatic experience if taken soon after the experience. Once one has a strong emotional reaction it is very hard to blunt, because it is written in our DNA. We got this attribute from animals before us, our forebears, to be able to learn from situations; these emotional reactions are therefore very powerful.

**[Diskuterende: intenderet brug /fordele:]** This is why Propranolol seems like a promising treatment: **It does not erase memories** – one will be able to remember what happened – it simply blocks the painful feelings in response to the event and thereby blunts the hysterical and fearful responses like shaking, sweaty palms, rapid heartbeat and sleeping disorders. **The drug is especially useful for war veterans** who have returned from combat but it can also be applied to a wide spectrum of other individuals who have been exposed to any kind of traumatic event and are so plagued by their emotional memories that they at times lose control of their own body, as described above. **The treatment will make them capable of undertaking normal jobs and maintaining their social lives.** Furthermore, it **could significantly decrease the amount of other prescription pills** they have to take.

**[Diskuterende: eventuelt misbrug /ulemper]** **Even though** a drug like Propranolol could aid **some people** with severe psychological issues, **others might** see it as the easy way out and seek prescriptions for trivial concerns. **In this scenario**, separated couples **might** be standing in line to blunt their temporary pain after every breakup. In a video clip from *Associated Press*, March 2011, Dr. Rachel Yehuda, who treats PTSD patients, **emphasizes** the ethical **concerns** about this topic. **She says** that pain serves a very important purpose in overcoming a trauma. One has to go through the hurt to come out on the other side. **When** one makes it to the other side, it is often to discover that one has become stronger – of course **if** the correct treatment is conducted. People with traumatic disorders are **usually** taught how to create new associations with the trauma and try to block the bad memories. **Therefore**, ingesting pills to forget bad events makes it hard to learn a lesson when it concerns lesser traumas. **Consequently**, it is probably not good to forget events – it is just important to process the events in a correct way.

**The scientists say** that more tests are required in order to confirm the drug's memory reversing ability on human beings, both to ensure that it does not cause any long term side effects, and to get an idea of how long the drug's effect on memory lasts. Paul Farmer, chief executive of the mental-health charity Mind, **is concerned** that positive memories **might** be eradicated.<sup>2</sup> **He notes that** [...]

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<sup>1</sup> Fox News, Memory Erasing Pill?, updated on April 29, 2011.

URL: <http://video.foxnews.com/v/3924063/memory-erasing-pill/>

<sup>2</sup> Mail Online (by David Derbyshire), Pill to erase bad memories: Ethical furore over drugs 'that threaten human identity', updated on 16 February 2009.

URL: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1145777/Pill-erase-bad-memories-Ethical-furore-drugs-threaten-human-identity.html>