

July 22, 2003

Dr. Philip Ney
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John M. Oldham, MD
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Psychiatric Practice

Dear Sir,

Re: 'Abortion and Psychiatric Practice' article

Dr. Stotland states in the Journal of Psychiatric Practice Vol. 9 March 2003 (2)139-149, "Psychiatrists need to know the medical and psychiatric facts about abortion." Everyone would agree with that, but her article does not supply those facts. Rather this article has 21 easily demonstrated errors. For example, she quotes Tietz, stating that "approximately 43% of women in US had an abortion by age 45." The rates of abortion are notoriously under-reported in the United States. Denmark, which has very similar conditions, reported in 1975 that 70% of all women by the age of 45 have had an abortion. She also states that "third trimester abortions are very rare", and "are always performed because of severe fetal anomalies". Haskell, in court, reports using partial birth abortions for a wide variety of reasons. Abortions are not safer than childbirth as shown in a number of very good studies that Dr. Stotland refuses to quote. The incidences of suicide, accidental death, cerebrovascular and cardiovascular deaths are higher post-abortion. The only way Dr. Stotland can in good conscience make her statements, is to avoid properly reviewing the evidence. This is apparent, partly in her selection of references, leaving all those out that don't agree with her, and also in quoting Family Planning Perspectives 6 times. This journal is not known for its scientific accuracy. Psychiatric illness is statistically more common following an abortion than it is following childbirth. The central issue is only alluded to; is abortion therapeutic? Does it make people better? There is absolutely no convincing evidence that abortion is necessary, beneficial, or free of significant side-effects.

Yours sincerely,

Philip G. Ney, MD, FRCP(C).