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## \*\*\* Dementia Continued \*\*\*

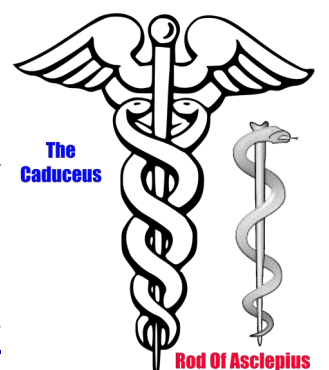
It seems that we do not have any medication for dementia that is both effective and safe. In fact, all evidence points to dementia medication as being ineffective and in most cases dangerous. A conclusion that was arrived at by a 2014 study by two Dartmouth professors Steven Woloshin and Lisa Schwartz reporting for Consumer Reports. In addition to their costs — ranging on average \$177-\$400 a month — there was not one drug that they could recommend. Not one drug.

The logical assessment would be that since physicians have no medication to provide patients with dementia then following the Hippocratic Oath and "first, do no harm," no medication should be prescribed.

The overuse of prescription of medication among older patients is **ageist**. We need to address this final bastion of stereotyping. We know that younger people with a similar disease are more likely to get therapy. But there is another negative consequence of this lack of knowledge. Physicians become shy at making prognoses. Although diagnosis is relatively easily, they can easily say it is Alzheimer's disease or Vascular dementia without any liability issue, and most do despite evidence that they are likely to be wrong.

The symbol of medicine is the **Rod Of Asclepius** — which has a snake coiled around a cane. It is carried by the Greek god Asclepius, a deity associated with healing and medicine. It is often confused with the caduceus which has a very different meaning.

**The Caduceus** — depicting two snakes wrapped around a winged rod — is carried by Mercury the mythical messenger of the gods. Mercury is the guide of the dead and protector of merchants, shepherds, gamblers, liars, and thieves. In dementia care we might be confusing both the symbol and the objectives becoming the protectors of the drug industry: merchants, gamblers, liars, and thieves. The abuse of older patients with dementia remains an unwritten chapter in the low point of medicine. ggd :(



Psychiatrist to "Pop:" Do you ever hear someone speaking but you are not able to see them? "PoP:" Yes.  
 Psychiatrist: When does this happen? "PoP:" When I am speaking on the phone Ba-Da-Bing! ggd ☺

