

Annotation #6

The last source I chose to utilize for this research portfolio was a TEDtalk titled *Why Medicine Often Has Dangerous Side Effects for Women*. This video primarily speaks about the trust we have in our doctors that we are receiving the best care possible and the reality that the majority of the drugs prescribed for certain illnesses are all meant for men. The speaker is an emergency medicine doctor and had lots of firsthand examples and experiences regarding this topic. McGregor, the speaker, is not saying that women cannot be taking said medicine, but that most medicines were strictly tested on male animals and then on male humans, disregarding the fact that men and women are physically different. She states that “80% of the drugs withdrawn from the market are due to side effects on women”. These drugs have already been released and only afterwards is the evidence clear that this entire practice endangers women. Women make up half the population, so wouldn’t it make sense for drug testing to include female samples to ensure the safety of half the people taking the drug.

For this source, I wanted to explore something different compared to all the journal and scholarly articles that I was previously citing. Luckily, when I searched my topic, a TEDtalk almost perfectly relating to my research showed up. This entire premise is so aggravating to me. The idea that drugs are only tested on male cells, animals, and then humans before it is released to the market gives off the idea that men’s health is more important than the health of women. The aforementioned statistic about 80% of the drugs being withdrawn due to side effects in women solidifies this idea that, in the minds of healthcare scientists, women are less important than men. McGregor’s TEDtalk builds on ideas that were a part of my other sources and gives a face to the many people who have firsthand experience with these issues.

TEDtalksDirector. (2015, November 5). *Why medicine often has dangerous side effects for women* / alyson mcgregor / ted talks. YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJCBM9ajA5s>.