

Sparking Joy: The Ethics of Medically-Induced Happiness
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Is the happiness induced by manipulating electrical impulses “natural” or is it “false”?
Why?

Explain how the treatment relates to the example of chronic pain or backfiring emotions?
What does this say about the labelling of the resulting happiness as “artificial”?

Should we be concerned about recreational use of happiness-inducement? Do we have
any reason to prefer the “natural” experience of happiness?

Imagine we have built a machine that can replicate lived experience. Once calibrated,
the subject is unable to distinguish between this new world and the “real” world. The
subject will have no memory or awareness of the experience as “fake” in any way. The
user can simply stipulate what experiences they wish to have (good and bad). Is it okay
for someone to choose a life of only simulated experiences? Would you choose a life of
simulated experience? Why or why not?