

## SUBMISSION ON GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

It is obvious that manufacturers of hormonal contraceptives have been aware for many decades that their products increase cancer rates in laboratory animals. Their Consumer Product Information leaflets admit that hormonal contraceptives cause increases in animals but create a false impression that these do not apply to humans. Women have been led to believe that hormonal pharmaceuticals are safe because CPI leaflets state that there is “no evidence” or “no conclusive evidence” of correlation of carcinogenic results in humans.

This is a deception calculated to preserve the profits of manufacturers at the expense of those women who suffer and die from these cancers. There are many research studies which correlate the increased cancer rates of the test animals and women. The Therapeutic Goods Authority appears to have been irresponsible in a number of ways:

- \*Giving equal weight to studies where the results with women conflict with animal studies.
- \*Failing to warn women of these conflicting results.
- \*Failing to investigate and/or publish the reasons for these conflicting results.
- \*Approving CPI information which was misleading

Our experience with the synthetic hormone, Diethylstilboestrol, (DES) should have forewarned us of the likelihood of similar traumatic effects from other hormonal drugs. DES was used by women for almost 30 years before the FDA banned its use in 1971.

Not only did DES cause rare vaginal cancers in the women who were prescribed the drugs, but a 2004 media release by our TGA states that daughters of these women have the same cancers and high rates of other deformities. Sons also have deformities and doctors have been warned to regard grandchildren with “careful surveillance.”

Should we therefore be initiating research into connections between hormonal contraceptive use and children’s cancers? While that may be outside the scope of this enquiry, it has a similarly traumatic effect on mothers.

The conflicting results of carcinogenic studies indicates ineptitude or corruption in medical research. The World Health Organisation press release declaring that the third generation Oral Contraceptive is a Class 1 carcinogen, the same category as tobacco and asbestos, received little publicity. It seems that a collusion of our media, contraceptive manufacturers, medical researchers and possibly the TGA are preventing Australian women from learning the truth about their contraceptives.

We are told that the reason that breast cancer incidence in Japan is one-fifth that of Australian women is their diet! We are not told that oral contraceptives were banned from sale in Japan during most of the 4 decades that Australian women have used them and that Japanese women have a high usage of natural family planning methods, usually ridiculed in Australian media.

I have emailed many short, topical letters to newspaper editors on these subjects with no publication. I was completely frustrated in a series of letters drawing attention to U.S. research findings reporting negatively on the Pill, released May 05, but they were finally acknowledged briefly in SMH, “Health & Science” in Feb 06.

Recent advertisements by contraceptive manufacturers calling for doctors to join their sales staff (Wyeth stating that they currently employ 47000) is an indication of the financial commitment of these giants to maintaining their sales. The timing of these advertisements could be an indication to doctors of the strength of opposition they will face if they report to your enquiry.

Media reports negative to the pill always include or are followed by statement reassuring users of its safety, often emanating from Family Planning Associations or General Practitioner Associations.

Another disturbing aspect is the formation of a cartel of contraceptive manufacturers called Catalyst to expand their sales into Third World Nations, which currently have very low rates of gynaecological cancers.

I hope that your enquiry enjoys full and unbiased reporting.

John Martin