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Evidence of Abortion-Breast Cancer link explodes on the Asian subcontinent

By Joel Brind, Ph.D.

Hot on the heels of the new systematic review and meta-analysis of the abortion-breast cancer (ABC link) in China published by Dr. Yubei Huang last November, comes yet another blockbuster study from the Asian subcontinent.

On Christmas Eve, a study by A.S. Bhadoria et al. of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences —“Reproductive factors and breast cancer: A case-control study in tertiary care hospital of North India”—appeared online in the “Indian Journal of Cancer.” These new Asian studies are changing the game in ABC link research

The Bhadoria study of 320 breast cancer patients and 320 age and socio-economic status-matched healthy control women reported a 403% increased risk of getting breast cancer among Indian women who have had any abortions. Not only is this increase much larger than what had been reported in the Huang meta-analysis (44%) and by my colleagues and I in our worldwide meta-analysis of 1996 (30%), but it closely matches the 538% among Indian women reported earlier in 2013 by Dr. Ramchandra Kamath et al.

Also in 2013, Dr. S. Jabeen and colleagues reported a risk increase of almost 2,000% among women in Bangladesh!

Taken collectively, the studies from Asia should completely abolish any lingering credibility of the US National Cancer Institute’s politically correct” dictum that there is no ABC link.

As explained in my December article (“Chinese Abortion-Breast Cancer bombshell: Meta-analysis of 36 Chinese studies shows abortion increases breast cancer risk by 44%”), the Huang meta-analysis reproduces and validates our findings from

1996. It also demonstrates what is called a “dose effect,” i.e., two abortions increase the risk more than one abortion (there is 76% risk increase with two or more abortions), and three abortions increase the risk even more (an 89% risk increase with three or more abortions).

Risk factors that show such a clear dose effect have more credibility.

I also previously described how the Huang “meta-analysis” (a study of studies) dispatched with the tired old canard used to discredit the ABC link, variously called the “response bias” or “recall bias” or “reporting bias” argument. The argument goes like this.

Due to social stigma that is attached to having an induced abortion, healthy women are more likely to deny prior abortions in their medical history study questionnaire than are women who’ve developed breast cancer. Hence, the argument goes, it would erroneously appear that abortion is more frequent among women who’ve had an abortion.

Although no credible evidence for this response bias hypothesis has ever been presented in ABC link research (and there is plenty of good evidence against it), the NCI and others have continually cited it as if it were a matter of fact in order to deny the reality of the ABC link. Huang et al. argued for the absence of response bias (abortion is very common in China and there is a lack of social stigma), but ABC-link detractors still cite response bias.

But the sub-continental studies really do put the final nail in the coffin of the response bias argument. Such response bias is only even plausible when the relative risk is relatively low, such as around 1.5 (i.e., a 50% risk increase).

But such bias becomes extremely implausible when the relative risk is strong—e.g., 5 or 6 (i.e., a 400-500% risk increase) or more. Thus, while one might

attempt to explain how some women with breast cancer might be more or less inclined to report their history of abortion, the numbers from India and Bangladesh are just too overwhelming. That's why the percentage risk increases come out so high.

In the Bhadoria study, for example, the majority (61%) of the breast cancer patients had had at least one abortion, whereas only 16% of the control women were post-abortive. The data from the other two studies show similarly lopsided comparisons of cancer patients and controls. That's why the risk increases come out so high.

It is important to note that these high relative risk numbers raise the question as to why, if abortion should have the same effect on women everywhere, there should be such a strong link on the Asian sub-continent. The answer is straightforward.

In India and Bangladesh, breast cancer is still relatively rare because a) early marriage and childbearing—the best known protection against breast cancer—is nearly universal; and b) breastfeeding (also a protective factor against breast cancer) is also nearly universal. Consequently, there's not much in Bangladesh besides abortion to cause breast cancer, so it really stands out.

As noted in my earlier piece on the ABC link in China, the impact of abortion on a population of over a billion women—in India and China alone—means breast cancer cases exceeding 10 million for the current generation of women of childbearing age, and millions of them dying from it. And by the way, in contrast to the typical age of onset of breast cancer in the West, Asian women are stricken more often when in their 40's.

Welcome to the real war on women.

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Abortion Statistics Review

As of January 22, 2014 – The 41st anniversary since that fateful day in 1973 when the Supreme court of the United States issued the infamous Roe V. Wade

and Doe V. Bolton decisions, there have been an estimated 56,662,169 abortions in the United States.

This U.S. total of 56,662,169 abortions in forty one years is a difficult number to wrap our brains around, so let's break it down into smaller chunks... that's:

- ⑤ 1.382 million abortions every year
- ⑤ 115,167 abortions every month
- ⑤ 26,577 abortions every week
- ⑤ 3,786 abortions every day
- ⑤ 157 abortions every hour
- ⑤ 2.6 abortions every minute.

Every life lost is a tragedy; however, we must not lose hope, Comparing 2008 – the last year statistics are available to past years – there are signs of progress towards a “Culture of Life.”

- ⑤ In 2008 approximately 1.21 million abortions occurred in the U.S., down from an estimated 1.29 million in 2002 (CA, DE, MD and NH do not report statistics to the CDC, so all numbers are estimated,)
- ⑤ The annual number of abortions doubled between 1973 and 1979, and peaked in 1990. Overall the annual number of abortions decreased 6% between 2000 and 2009.
- ⑤ The number of abortion providers declined 11% between 1996 and 2000 and another 2% between 2000 and 2005.
- ⑤ 35 states currently enforce parental consent or notification laws for minors seeking an abortion.
- ⑤ The U.S. Congress has barred the use of federal Medicaid funds to pay for abortions, except when the woman's life would be endangered by a full term pregnancy or in cases of rape or incest.

(See www.abort73.com for more abortion facts)

Around the Office

January is always one of the busiest months of the year, and 2014 was no exception. Hundreds of thousands participated in the March for Life in Washington DC and an estimated 60,000 joined in the Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco. There were also numerous local walks and rallies held in California and throughout the nation.

Students for Life coordinated conferences attended by over 2,500 student leaders, including 40-Days-for-Life in both Washington DC and San Francisco.

California Right to Life Educational Fund had several information tables for life in January, and distributed almost 100 precious preborns among the events. A student who approached our table took a picture of our fetal models set with her iPhone. Imagine where those precious preborns and that picture may go in an effort to save a life of our preborn brother or sister.

The student group at UC Santa Barbara, to whom we provide materials, has been such a success they need replenishment of their supplies! Here is an excerpt from a news article about the UCSB Group:

{UCSB} Students for Life held a silent protest next to a lawn dotted with thousands of crosses, made from popsicle sticks. Members said the display represented the more than 3,000 abortions that occur each day in the United States.

"The opposition is more vocal than we are but there is a large number of people that agree with us," said Katie Devlin (*of Lafayette CA, daughter of one of our members*) Vice President of UCSB's Pro Life Club. "We're trying to grow our club and tell the undecided people out there that both sides are represented on campus."

The group says roughly 25 percent of California's unborn children are aborted each year.

<http://www.keyt.com/news/ucsb-students-celebrateprotest-roe-vs-wade-anniversary/-/17671600/24061122/-/4as3rp/-/index.html>

We worked on several "end of life" cases, including Jahi McMath, the little girl who had a tonsillectomy at Oakland Children's Hospital, and due to complications, was declared "brain dead" by the hospital. Soon after Jahi McMath was moved to an undisclosed location so she could get the care she needed, we received an e-mail about a newborn baby born with a chromosome abnormality that doctors diagnosed as being "incompatible with life." We also made a referral for an elderly gentleman whose family disagreed on level of care; unfortunately, he had left no instructions such as a "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

(available from Patients Rights Council 800-958-5678 or 740-282-3810 between 8:30am and 4:30pm eastern time).

Sadly we have received a number of calls already this year asking for assistance and prayers for women considering abortion, or being pressured by others. A couple days after Christmas we received a call from one of our members requesting guidance on what he could do about a mentally handicapped girl who is being pressured by her parents to abort their grandchild. A special thanks to Life Legal Defense Foundation for their readiness, during a holiday week, to step up if needed to assist in this situation. The first week of January brought students back to school and soon thereafter we received a call from a devastated high school student asking for guidance because her classmate had an abortion over the Christmas break, and the classmate was already regretting her decision. We were able to provide a referral to Rachel's Vineyard (rachelvineyard.org).

All of this could be reason to despair; however the hundreds of thousands of marchers in Washington DC on January 22nd and the estimated 60,000 walkers in San Francisco on January 25th show that we are growing. The media pundits don't quite have it right, we aren't part of a "war on women" rather we are soldiers in the "war on WHAT HURTS Women!"

The Students for Life conferences were filled with youth on fire to proclaim the message on their campuses and beyond; they are the face of the future of the Pro-Life movement, and they are full of energy!

The Pro-life movement includes a network of organizations working round the clock, from the pregnancy centers (<http://www.optionline.org/>) where we refer the women who call asking, "How much do you charge for an abortion?" to the lawyers at Life Legal Defense Foundation (www.ildf.org) who are always there to guide and assist those needing legal counsel on any life issue from the earliest stages of life through its natural end. Round-the-clock availability also includes Ca Right to Life Educational Fund, who proclaim the message of the dignity of every human being, no matter how small or what level of dependency.

To join us for an information table in your area, contact our office. Also the Lenten 40-Days-for-Life will be here before we know it... Consider joining your neighbors at the local site this spring!

Thank you to all who support our work; your donations are a vital to our efforts. Students that staff our information tables and go into their school quads need materials to proclaim the message of life. Your contributions make their efforts possible.

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see
www.calendarforlife.org

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