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Pregnant Women Can Undergo Chemotherapy without Harming the Baby

Recently I was approached by a “friend of a woman with cancer” who had been counseled by her doctor to abort her 14 week gestational child. Sadly the abortion had already happened. How I wish the doctor had done some research, or at least been up to date on “recent” medical literature. Perhaps we can help spread the word that chemotherapy is safe for fetuses.

In 2012 The Lancet, a prominent British medical journal published a special edition in which it reported on a collection of studies offering reassurance that chemotherapy after the first trimester does NOT harm the unborn child.

Up to 1 in 2,000 pregnancies is affected by cancer and this rate is increasing by 2.5 percent a year as women have children later in life and cancer cases are rising.

In a comment article in the journal, researchers Philippe Morice, Catherine Uzan, and Serge Uzan of the Department of Gynecologic Surgery, at the Institute Gustave Roussy, in France said: “Treatment of malignancy in pregnancy is still associated with unacceptable errors: e.g. the sometimes unjustified termination of pregnancies or the choice of an inadequate strategy for treatment of a tumor with the risk of compromised survival.”

Lead author on two studies, Dr. Frederic Amant at the Leuven Cancer Institute in Belgium said: “Importantly, the new insights we gained during our research facilitate cancer treatment and provide hope for mother and child in most cases. Most mothers feel stronger and are even more motivated to undergo the cancer treatment and its side effects, since she is fighting for her child as well.

“Whether the patient already has children, her desire to continue the present pregnancy, the opinion of the partner and the predicted outcome determine her choices and reactions when breast

cancer is diagnosed during pregnancy. The patient and her partner should be informed about the different treatment options and the physician should explain that termination of pregnancy does not seem to improve maternal outcome, but the decision to continue or end the pregnancy is a personal one.”

Researchers in Belgium followed up with 70 children whose mothers have had chemotherapy while they were in the womb. The research shows no problematic after-effects. They were found to have normal development, IQ, hearing, heart function and general health. Those who were born prematurely had lower IQ scores, which is thought to be connected to the early birth rather than the drugs as this is seen in babies not exposed to chemotherapy, the researchers said.

Dr Amant said: “We show that children who were prenatally exposed to chemotherapy do as well as other children.

“Our findings do not support a strategy of delay in chemotherapy administration or iatrogenic (physician induced) preterm delivery with post-partum chemotherapy administration to avoid harm to the fetus.”

“The decision to administer chemotherapy should follow the same guidelines as in non-pregnant patients. In practice, it is possible to administer chemotherapy from 14 weeks gestational age onwards with specific attention to prenatal care.”

Dr. Joel Brind, a Baruch College professor says studies have shown that for decades.

“Unfortunately, many doctors still recommend abortion for women diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant, so that they can treat the cancer more aggressively. This is despite [worldwide research going back as far as the 1930’s](#) that shows that so-called ‘therapeutic abortion’ substantially shortens lifespan, whereas carrying the pregnancy to term makes long-term cure more likely,” he said.

Dr. Brind commented that a 1976 review of all studies published to that point, conducted by French doctor P. Juret, reported that, “The futility of therapeutic abortion is now certain.”

Defund Planned Parenthood – Talking Points

by Pastor Walter Hoyer

As the nation's largest abortion chain with a long record of unethical activity, Planned Parenthood does not deserve our tax dollars.

1. Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion chain.

- Planned Parenthood performs over 320,000 abortions a year.
- 34% of all U.S. abortions are done by Planned Parenthood.
- 1 out of 8 women visiting Planned Parenthood each year will get an abortion there.
- Planned Parenthood takes in an estimated \$191 million on abortion alone every year, accounting for 60% of their clinic income.
- Planned Parenthood is cornering the market on abortion: even as the national abortion rate declines, Planned Parenthood's abortion numbers continue to rise.

2. Planned Parenthood is a bad actor and a lightning rod of controversy.

- Planned Parenthood has been caught shielding child predators, lying about what services they provide, deceiving government officials, defying state and federal laws, submitting fraudulent Medicaid claims, and harvesting and selling fetal tissue.
- Because of their huge abortion business, unethical activity and partisan political involvement, Planned Parenthood is one of the most divisive organizations in the country.

3. Planned Parenthood exaggerates their role in providing healthcare to women.

- Planned Parenthood provides less than 2% of manual breast exams, less than 1% of pap tests, and zero mammograms annually.
- Women cannot go to Planned Parenthood for such basic healthcare needs as treatment for back pain, colds and flu, bodily injury, and mental health issues.
- Despite their name, Planned Parenthood offers almost no prenatal care, which

amounts to less than 0.2% of total annual services.

- Planned Parenthood offers no pediatric care, a primary concern of millions of women, and even instructs women not to bring children with them to their centers.
- 4 out of 5 women will never visit a Planned Parenthood facility.

4. Defunding Planned Parenthood would not reduce funding for women's health.

- Every dollar taken from Planned Parenthood would be redirected to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that don't provide abortions.
- Nationwide, there are 13 times more FQHCs than Planned Parenthood centers, serving 8 times more clients.
- FQHCs offer families a far wider range of services and a higher standard of care than Planned Parenthood.

Questions and Answers

How much taxpayer funding does Planned Parenthood receive from the federal government?

Planned Parenthood receives \$553 million annually from taxpayers, 43% of their annual budget, of which \$430 million comes from the federal government. The balance of their taxpayer funding comes from state and local governments.

Isn't abortion only a very small part of what Planned Parenthood does?

Planned Parenthood claims abortion is only 3% of their services, a figure so misleading that Slate magazine called it "the most meaningless abortion statistic ever." Out of the 9.5 million individual services Planned Parenthood provided in 2014, 323,999 were abortions -- roughly 3%. But this figure fails to account for the fact that a woman visiting Planned Parenthood for an abortion will receive several services -- from a pregnancy test to some manner of counseling to the abortion itself -- each of which is counted separately. Also, abortion accounts for more than 60% of their total clinic income.

Don't you know Planned Parenthood doesn't receive funding directly for abortion?

Even if Planned Parenthood does not receive federal funding directly for abortion, the \$430 million they receive from the federal government helps them to keep the lights on, staff their call centers, and market their business. Moreover, offering taxpayer funded services also provides Planned Parenthood with a large population to market their abortion services to. Taxpayer funding is propping up the nation's largest abortion chain.

Why do you want to take healthcare away from poor women?

Nobody is trying to reduce poor women's access to healthcare. Every dollar taken from Planned Parenthood would be redirected to Federally Qualified Health Centers that provide a far wider range of services and a higher standard of care than Planned Parenthood.

Doesn't Planned Parenthood reduce abortion by providing contraception?

Defunding Planned Parenthood would not reduce federal funding for contraception or any healthcare service. It should also be noted that more than half of women getting abortions were using contraception during the month they became pregnant.

Conclusion

Defunding Planned Parenthood could save hundreds of thousands of lives every year. And now, right now, is the time to get it done. Contrary to what pro-abortion advocates claim, millions of women are not helped by Planned Parenthood. Rather, Planned Parenthood terminates the lives of millions of future women (and men) before they can even draw their first breath. Let us speak up for those who will never get the chance to speak for themselves.

A Day at the Mall

by Cecelia Cody

On St. Patrick's Day, 2017, several of us participated in the monthly Information Table for Life. The day was somewhat slow as far as number of visitors to the table; however, I'd have to say it was "quality" over "quantity."

Just before noon a lady stopped at the table and somewhat in a lament, recounted how her daughter-in-law and also a friend of her daughter each had had an abortion. We were able to provide several pamphlets on post-abortion healing, including information on the Rachel's Vineyard retreat program <http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/> and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign <http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/>.

Later that afternoon we were once again visited by an early high-school age man, who has been stopping by our table every time we were there for the past several months. Each time he would ask several questions about our pro-life position as it relates to abortion. Each time we would provide him some pamphlets, as we tried to patiently respond to his questions. Just as we were about to "call it a day," here came my favorite mall table visitor. He didn't have any questions for us, just wanted to tell us he was now "Pro-Life" and thank us for helping him. Over time, he had asked his questions, and we patiently provided information. And over time, he has "connected the dots" and discovered the science and logic of the pro-life position.

This is the reason we keep coming back... to be there for those who are hurting, searching, or just needing a listening ear. Contact our office if you would like to start an Information Table for Life in your area.

Calendar of Events

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

National Pro- Life T-Shirt Day... April 21, 2017

National Pro-Life T-shirt Day is a national day of action when people of all ages wear a pro-life T-shirt to school, to work, or in their communities to show their love and support for life. Snap a picture in your shirt and share using #NPLTD17.