EDUCATION CORNER

The Abortion Breast Cancer Link

Did you know that 28 out of 37 worldwide studies published since 1957 have linked abortion to breast cancer? Most people are familiar with the statistic that the average American women's lifetime risk of breast cancer is about one in eight or twelve percent. Granted, induced abortion is only one of the risk factors for breast cancer. However, it is the most avoidable risk factor for this disease.

Dr. Joel Brind, President of Cancer Prevention Institute, has explained that most known risk factors for breast cancer involve estrogen overexposure.

- Experts universally agree that having a child provides a woman with increased protection against breast cancer. One Harvard study reported that each year that a woman postpones her first full-term pregnancy increases her breast cancer risks by 3.5%. Terminating the pregnancy through induced abortion causes the woman to forego the protective effect that a full-term pregnancy will afford her.
- {with} each one-week increase in the gestational age of the fetus...there is a 3 percent increase in the risk of breast cancer.
- 28 out of 37 worldwide studies have independently linked abortion with breast cancer. 13 out of 15 of these studies are American studies that show a link. Seven show more than a twofold elevation in risk.

In 1996 Dr. Brind and his colleagues at Pennsylvania State Medical College conducted a review and meta-analysis of the worldwide studies, most of which were done by abortion supporters. His team found an overall 30% elevated risk of breast cancer linked to abortion for the general population.

What is the **explanation for this correlation**? When a woman becomes pregnant, a hormone called *estradiol* a type of estrogen, causes cells in the breast to multiply. This process is called *proliferation.* By 7-8 weeks gestation, the Estradiol level has increased by 500% over what it was at the time of conception, and estrogen levels can increase 20-fold by the end of the first trimester of pregnancy. Estradiol causes both normal and pre-cancerous cells to multiply. When the baby is carried to term, a process called *differentiation* takes place; breast cells mature into cancer-resisting, milk producing tissues. This takes place at about 32 weeks gestation. If the baby is aborted, the woman is left with more undifferentiated – and therefore vulnerable cells – than before she got pregnant.

Miscarriages – research has shown that most miscarriages do not raise breast cancer risk, but induced abortion does. Why the variance? Miscarriages are often preceded by a decline in the production of progesterone, which is needed to maintain a pregnancy. Because estrogen is made from progesterone, these pregnancies generally produce insufficient quantities of estrogen.

One especially disturbing study on women was done by Dr. Janet Darling, an abortion supporter, at Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in 1994. Her case-control study included approximately 1800 women: 900 women with breast cancer with a like number of control women drawn from the same population. Included in Dr. Darling's findings:

- "(A)mong women who had been pregnant at least once, the risk of breast cancer in those who had experienced an induced abortion was 50% higher than among other women."
- Teenagers under age 18 and women over 30 who procure an abortion increase their breast cancer risk by more than 100%.
- Darling's most alarming finding was that teenagers with a family history of breast cancer (mother, grandmother, aunt or sister) who procure an abortion face a risk of breast cancer that is incalculably high. All 12 women in her study with this history were diagnosed with breast cancer by age 45.

For more information on the Abortion Breast Cancer link: http://www.abortionbreastcancer.org