

IS THERE A LINK BETWEEN ABORTION AND BREAST CANCER?

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I was able to get in contact with someone on the other side of the debate, and what I found was downright scary. I spoke with Karen Malec, president and co-founder of Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer, who had a wealth of information to share.

Her mission? To help protect the health of women and save lives by educating them on what she calls “the ABC link,” or the link between abortion and breast cancer. Before she educated me on the biological reasoning for this link, she shared a few important facts with me.

She told me about a letter, written by government scientists in 1986 to the “British Journal Lancet,” acknowledging a link between abortion and breast cancer, stating “Induced abortion before first term pregnancy increases the risk of breast cancer.”

Malec also shared a release with me distributed by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, which issued a statement in 2003 about the need for doctors to inform their patients about a “highly plausible” relationship between abortion and breast cancer.

These statements got my attention, and I quickly came across a study in the 2007 issue of

the “Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons” that shocked me.

The study, entitled “The Breast Cancer Epidemic: Modeling and Forecasts based on Abortions,” was conducted by an Actuary and Statistician Patrick Carroll, who is also the director of the Research, Pension and Population Research Institute in London.

In “The Breast Cancer Epidemic,” Carroll takes national cancer registration information for female breast cancer incidences in eight European countries, along with abortion rates as his primary risk factor, and used that information to successfully predict future breast cancer rates for 2003 and 2004. His forecasts successfully predicted 100 percent of the cancers observed in 2003 and 97.5 percent of those observed in 2004.

Excited at the facts that I was able to find, I continued on. There truly is an enormous amount of information out there on the subject, and I wanted to know why this isn't being discussed publicly!

I contacted Malec again, hoping to figure out more. During this conversation, Malec explained the scientific reasoning behind the theory that undergoing an abortion increases a woman's risk of breast cancer. It

is known as the “Independent Link” and here is a simplified version. A woman who has never been pregnant has milk glands in her breasts that are made up of immature and cancer-vulnerable breast cells. When that woman becomes pregnant, her breasts begin to enlarge, and due to an increase in estrogen, both normal and precancerous cells begin to multiply dramatically due to a process called “proliferation.” This process increases the number of cancer-susceptible cells, in turn increasing the number of places cancer can grow in a woman's breasts. It is only after 32 weeks of gestation that a second process occurs, called “differentiation,” which changes the cells into milk-producing tissue, and shuts off the cell multiplication process, leaving the woman with mature cells that have now become cancer resistant.

However, if a woman has never had a full-term pregnancy, and she aborts her baby before this 32-week period, she is left with an increased number of undifferentiated cells, or cancer-susceptible cells, in her breasts.

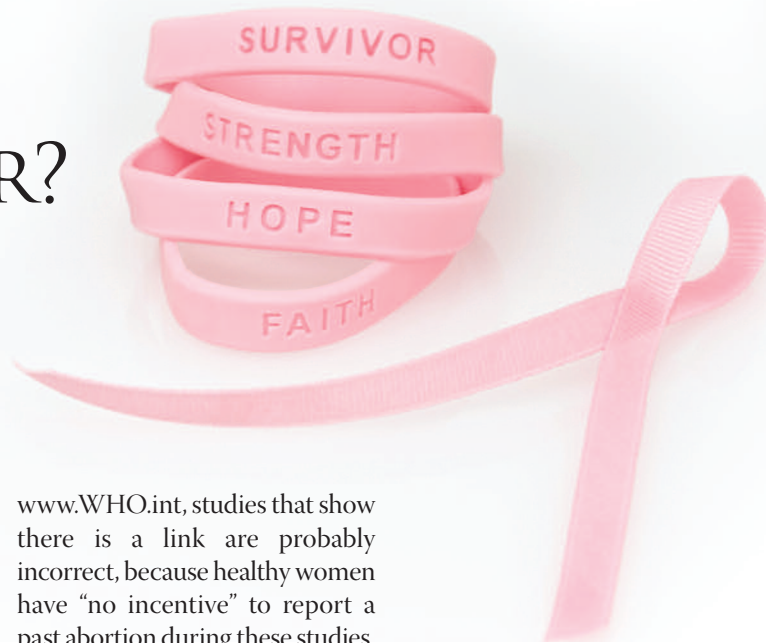
According to Malec, most women who miscarry before the 32-week mark do not undergo this “proliferation” of cancer-vulnerable cells because their estrogen levels do not usually rise significantly.

However, 88 percent of abortions are performed long before this 32-week gestation period, usually in the first 13 weeks, according to the CDC. This leaves many women with an increased amount of cancer susceptible cells in their breasts.

After this phone call, I was satisfied with Malec's biological reasoning, but I still researched it on my own. I came across this explanation in several different medical and scientific journals, along with various press releases and articles.

However, this “independent link” between abortion and breast cancer is the topic of much debate.

Even the World Health Organization (WHO) denies any link between the two, although they do so in garbled language that says that they follow two studies which contest the possibility of a link. According to



www.WHO.int, studies that show there is a link are probably incorrect, because healthy women have “no incentive” to report a past abortion during these studies.

But, what if Malec and many others are right?

Why aren't people being made aware that there are two sides to this story?

Malec says doctors keep quiet, because they have a tremendous fear of lawsuits, although she says that three women have already publicly and successfully sued their abortion physicians, because they were not informed about the abortion/breast cancer link.

“ What was concealed in the fine print of the study was the fact that, for these women, the risk of getting breast cancer before the age of 45 increased by 800 percent. ”

—Marisa Zeppieri-Caruana

According to her, history is repeating itself.

Remember how companies paid big bucks many years ago to keep consumers in the dark about tobacco risks? In the same way, Malec says, we now have large abortion and cancer organizations keeping women in the dark about the risks of abortion.

A November 1994 TIME magazine article entitled, “Do Abortions Raise the Risk of Breast Cancer?” reaffirmed my concern

that this sensitive information was not being shared. The article revealed information on a study that was being released by the Journal of National Cancer Institute, questioning whether or not abortions raise the risk of breast cancer. The study reported that girls who were 18 years old and younger and had an abortion after the eighth week of pregnancy had an increased risk of getting breast cancer.

But according to the writer of the article, the scientists behind the study hid one of the most explosive findings on this issue.

What was concealed in the fine print of the study was the fact that, for these women, the risk of getting breast cancer before the age of 45 increased by 800 percent.

“We didn't say that in our report, because we didn't want to alarm anyone before more research is done,” Janet Daling, one of the scientists who worked on the study, told Time.

As a young woman who's watched every woman in my family battle breast cancer, I feel obligated to share this information with others. With a little research, you'll find that information on both sides of the debate is readily available, and you would be doing yourself a disservice not to educate yourself. I urge you to learn as much as you can about the reported link between abortion and breast cancer, and maybe, one day, you will have the opportunity to share this information with a woman who is about to make one of the biggest decisions of her life.

For more information, visit www.AbortionBreastCancer.com or www.JPANDS.org.



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