

Science

Flu Shot Linked to Cancer

“Careful consideration must be given to weight the benefits and disadvantages of the flu shot.”

Getting a flu shot almost doubles the chance of getting cancer according to Lankes and colleagues.

In a new study at the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University, Lankes found that a single flu shot at any time alters the immune system in such a way that it increases the risk of cancer.

Receipt of a flu shot increases the risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma by 53%, follicular lymphoma by 98% percent, and diffuse large B cell lymphoma by 88%.

It is unclear whether receiving regular annual flu shots under the CDC’s recommended schedule further compounds the risk of cancer over a single dose influenza jab.

Last month, other research was released showing that children who get the flu vaccine are three times more likely to be hospitalized for the flu. Children with asthma are even more likely to be hospitalized when they are vaccinated.

Careful consideration must be given to weight the benefits and disadvantages of the flu shot. All medication have the potential for adverse side effects.

With the H1N1 swine flu shot coming soon, it pays to remember that the vaccine will have little or no short-term testing and absolutely no long-term testing. Several hundred people were paralyzed from the vaccinations given during the 1976 swine flu outbreak.

Is the flu more dangerous than the side effects of the vaccine? Does cancer run in the family? What’s safer? You be the judge.

To ‘shot’ or not to ‘shot’, that is the question.

References

American Thoracic Society (2009, May 20). Children Who Get Flu Vaccine Have Three Times Risk Of Hospitalization For Flu, Study Suggests. *Science-Daily*. Retrieved May 20, 2009.

Lankes HA, Fought AJ, Evens AM, Weisenburger DD, Chiu BC. Vaccination history and risk of non-hodgkin lymphoma: a population-based, case-control study. *Cancer Causes Control*. 2009 Jul;20(5):517-23. Epub 2008 Nov 15.

