

---

## ■ Research questions need for flu shots for seniors

In yet another blow to the theory of immunization a study presented at the *American Geriatrics Society* in Atlanta, Georgia in May, 1997 reports that people over 65 years of age may not benefit from repeated flu shots.

The study, done at the Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem, Isreal, found that subjects who had been given repeated flu shots had lower levels of antibody production (the measure of how effective a vaccine is) than those who had never been vaccinated. The unvaccinated patients had higher levels of antibodies than the vaccinated ones.

The researchers went on to say "Our study showed that a decreased immune response to some influenza strains may follow repeated annual vaccinations."

This study shows that the human body, without benefit of vaccination, is quite capable of producing the necessary antibodies to combat disease providing it is working correctly. Chiropractic makes sure your body is working at optimum levels. ▲

## ■ FDA says flu drug dangerous, tells maker to strengthen warnings

*Reuters News Service* reports that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has told the maker of the flu drug Relenza to strengthen warning labels on the drug after receiving reports of patient hospitalization and possibly deaths that could be linked to it.

Last year, the British government ruled that Relenza should not be reimbursed on the state-run national health service because there are doubts about its benefits and high costs.

As a result of the FDA's findings, Glaxo, the manufacturer of Relenza, has written to doctors warning them that the drug may have contributed to breathing problems in patients with respiratory problems as well as to a decline in respiratory function in patients without a history of airway disease.

Glaxo hopes to offer new information to show that Relenza is valuable to "older" flu sufferers.

We hope that would not be those older patients who suffer from a decline in respiratory function without a history of airway disease.

## ■ Flu Vaccine Does Not Protect Against Ear Infections

The September 24, 2003 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association reports that the flu vaccine does not help prevent ear infections in children as many predicted it might. In fact, children in the study who were vaccinated actually had a slightly higher incidence of ear infections than those who were not.

786 children in the study were divided into two groups and followed through two flu seasons. One group received two doses of the flu vaccine and the other group received a placebo.

During the first flu season, 30% of the non-vaccinated group had at least one ear infection. 31% of the vaccinated group experienced an ear infection. According to the authors, the rates of ear infections were similar for the second flu season.



## Inhaled Flu Vaccine Strongly Linked To Bell's Palsy

The February 26<sup>th</sup> issue of The New England Journal of Medicine reports that an intranasal (inhaled) flu vaccine used in Switzerland has been associated with a greatly increased risk of developing Bell's Palsy.

Bell's Palsy is an acute inflammation of the facial nerve that leads to severe pain and paralysis of the facial muscles that control expressions such as smiling and frowning.

The inhaled flu vaccine in question is called Nasalflu and was first used in the 2000 – 2001 flu season. From October 2000 to April 2001 the Swill Drug Monitoring Center received 46 reports of vaccine recipients developing Bell's Palsy. Soon after, the vaccine was pulled from the market and a study was begun to examine the extent of the connection. In November 2001 the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined the Swiss study.

In that study, 250 patients with Bell's Palsy were evaluated and compared to 722 people without the disorder. 27.2% of the Bell's Palsy patients had been vaccinated with Nasalflu while only 1.1% of the people without Bell's Palsy had been exposed to the vaccine.

Not liking those results, the researchers decided to use a more conservative approach regarding their assumptions about the risk. Using even the most conservative assumptions, Nasalflu users were nearly 20 times more likely to develop Bell's Palsy than folks who hadn't. The highest risk of developing Bell's Palsy was between 31 and 60 after exposure to the vaccine.

Commentary: We feel that further investigation into the Bell's Palsy connection is highly important since vaccines are dangerous enough as it is. Inhaled vaccines can be even more dangerous because they bypass most of the body's major defense mechanisms and provide a direct route to the brain for toxins the vaccines contain.

## Flu Shots For Elderly Not As Effective As Thought

The September 22, 2005 issue of the British medical journal the Lancet reports that an analysis of 40 years of research shows more evidence that flu shots are not as effective in the elderly as generally believed.

The study found the vaccine is only about 28 percent effective when given to people over 65.

In the study, results from 64 studies were combined and examined. The researchers concluded that the flu shots had reduced by only 28 percent the chance of an elderly person ending up in a hospital with influenza or pneumonia.

Lead researcher Dr. Tom Jefferson says that while the effectiveness of the vaccine is normally thought to be 80 or 90 percent in the elderly, this study shows “it’s not as effective...that needs to be clearly presented to our customers, not fudged.”

A previous study from the U.S. National Institutes of Health found that flu shots for the elderly did not save any lives.

Commentary: The fact that Dr. Jefferson uses the word “fudged” certainly seems to imply that he believes the drug industry knows about the ineffectiveness of flu shots and would like for them to stop promoting it as effective. It certainly gives us pause for concern.

For more information on the dangers of vaccination, the National Vaccine Information Center maintains an extremely informative vaccine information website at <http://www.909shot.com> or they can be reached at 512 W. Maple Avenue, #206, Vienna, VA 22180. Their phone number is 1-800-909-SHOT (7468).