

Do Vaccines Cause Cancer?

By Heather Simpson,
Back to the Vax

When I was an anti-vaxxer, I remember cancer being a major focus. I actually believed vaccines could cause my child to get cancer! By not vaccinating my daughter, I believed I would save her from all forms of cancer, forever. I viewed it as a magical secret that allowed me to never have to deal with childhood cancer.

And then my friend's unvaccinated child got cancer...
My world was shaken. I didn't understand how that was possible. Everything I thought I knew came crashing down.

Now, coming out on the other side, I realize that not only do vaccines NOT cause cancer, there is research to show they can help PREVENT cancer.

➔ **So why do some people think that vaccines can cause cancer?**

Between 1955-1962, the polio vaccine became contaminated with a monkey derived virus called SV40 (Simian Virus 40). Of course, experts didn't find this out until much later. By then, tens of millions of people around the world had received SV40 contaminated poliovirus vaccines.

Eventually, lab studies on mice hinted at an association between SV40 and some cancers. These studies also showed that SV40 had been found in some tumors. However, a 2002 National academics review of the subject determined there was not enough data to establish a causal link. And a very large-scale expert review in 2005 concluded that a link was unlikely, especially since SV40 was found in tumors of people who never had a polio vaccine and there was no extra risk of cancer in people who had a potentially contaminated polio vaccine.

Of course, the polio vaccines in current use contain no trace of SV40.

In fact, some studies show that childhood vaccinations may actually lower the risk of cancer.

A study of 439 children from 1989-1993 suggested that infants receiving the conjugate Hib vaccine may be at a reduced risk of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Groves et al., 1999).

And of course, there is the fact that HPV vaccines can reduce your child's risk of developing cervical cancer, oral cancer, and throat cancer. The hepatitis B vaccine also reduces their risk of liver cancer!

IKC's HPV Toolkit

Learn about the importance of
vaccinating against HPV.



As parents, we do not need to worry about our child getting cancer from a vaccine. While it is a compelling, completely fear based argument, it's false.



You can confidently vaccinate your child knowing that, at worst, you are not giving them cancer, and at best, you are helping to prevent cancer.



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