

Lies Damned Lies And Swine Flu Statistics

By Lara

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Welcome to the Winter 2011 pantomime: **Much a Flu About Nothing** - otherwise known as the mass PR campaign to sell H1N1 influenza vaccines. A goal well worth pursuing if you stand to profit from it - after all with annual revenues estimated to be in the region of US\$ 4.8 billion according to BharatBook - an 'enormous boost' for the vaccine market sector. [1] With that established, now all that is needed is continued drive for uptake of the vaccine.

According to data as reported by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) the number of patients reporting influenza/influenza like illness (ILI) in the 2010/11 season has so far risen to above 100 cases per 100,000 in England. [2] This is classed as an epidemic, although testing indicates that only 67% of these patients turning up for consultations actually have influenza.

The number of deaths associated with ILI in the UK in 2010 according to the HPA is tiny - only 39, of which 36 were due to H1N1 'swine flu' and 3 to Influenza B. The mean age of the patient was around 35 years old - and not much younger as is being widely published. [3] While these fatalities are clearly sad for the families of the individuals, they are by far a very small statistic compared with the overall death rate, which by week 49 of 2010 was >11,000 people in England and Wales. [3] But even so, at face value of influenza media reporting, one would think that every parent in the country should be terrified for the life of their small infants.

The truth as published by the UK Office of National Statistics, is that the majority of deaths from respiratory causes are from pneumonia or Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (mainly bronchitis), with influenza hardly contributing to the death rate at all. [4]

Deaths Due to Respiratory Causes in the UK, 2009

| Cause of Death | Total Deaths | % of Total |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Pneumonia | 28,152 | 40.8 |
| Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (mainly bronchitis) | 25,688 | 37.2 |
| Other | 15,103 | 21.9 |
| Influenza | 31 | 0.04 |
| Total | 68,974 | 100 |

Source: UK Office of National Statistics

Well who would have thought it, our government and mainstream media have lied to us...yet again. The common factor - large sums of money, billions in fact of corporate money, shareholdings, dividends, etc etc. It's like the MPs expenses all over again but with far worse consequences.

The mainstream media appears to be taking each of these 39 cases and attempting to create sufficient fear and panic to try to motivate 10's of millions of people including pregnant women, babies and infants to have a controversial vaccination consisting of both seasonal influenza and H1N1 strains. Just one of these stories a day can keep the media going for well over a month in the winter season, but in reality, the scale of the fatalities is really very small, and most cases of flu, while rather unpleasant, have no long lasting or devastating health effects.

Swine Flu Vaccine Adverse Events – Deaths, Miscarriages Et Al

The H1N1 vaccine in contrast, has been linked with some alarming adverse events in its recipients causing vaccine programmes to be suspended or stopped all together in several countries. Poland has rejected H1N1 vaccines completely because of safety fears. [5] The GSK vaccine Pandemrix has been suspended in Finland due to concerns over raised instances of narcolepsy in children. [6] The German Medical Association (BAK) has advised against giving infants and pregnant women Pandemrix, due to safety concerns over the use of adjuvanted vaccines in these patient groups. [7] A spokesperson from BAK stated:

“We know the effects of the various ingredients in adjuvant vaccines but not the combined effect. It’s understandable that people are wary of getting jabs of drug cocktails.”

These concerns have not stopped the administration of Pandemrix in the UK however to babies as young as 6 months old as well as pregnant women.

In Australia, the Fluvax shot, manufactured by CSL Biotherapies, was associated with adverse reactions including fever and vomiting in 250 children and could not be ruled out as contributing to the death of one baby girl. From April 2010, the Australian government banned the Fluvax shot for all healthy under fives and the New Zealand government recommended against its use for the same age group. [8] Fluvax, marketed under the brand name 'Afluria' in the USA is also not recommended by the US FDA for children under 9 years old. [9]

The USA does however vaccinate babies as young as 6 months old with 'Fluzone' from Sanofi-Pasteur. This is in spite of the fact that 800,000 doses of pediatric Sanofi-Pasteur H1N1 vaccine were recalled in 2009 due to a quality assurance problem that resulted in low potency doses being sold for use. [10] In the 2010/2011 season, Fluzone contains 3 flu strains including H1N1, H3N2 and Influenza B. According to the FDA's own information on Fluzone, no animal reproduction studies have been performed so the vaccine poses an unknown risk to pregnant women or babies being breast fed and its use in these groups is restricted.

Just 31 babies of 6-36 months have been involved in clinical trials for Fluzone - but these were tested in 2003-2004 and not on the current vaccine formulation. Local and systemic adverse events involving Fluzone for the pediatric cohort were described as occurring in a similar proportion as in adults. 7.5% of the adult patients receiving Fluzone had a Serious Adverse Event (SAE). Post-

marketing surveillance has also included reports of patients with severe immune, vascular and neurological disorders after vaccination. [11]

Pregnant women are being designated as a priority group for the H1N1 vaccine, in spite of 100's of anecdotal reports of miscarriage after the vaccine. A women's group in the USA, the National Coalition of Organised Women (NCOW) has presented a statistical analysis of adverse events from the Vaccine Adverse Events Reports System (VAERS) suggesting that >1,588 (possibly >3,500) miscarriages and still births were caused by H1N1 vaccination in the 2009/10 flu season. [12] According to the same group, there is absolutely no safety data on the use of the adjuvanted H1N1 vaccines in pregnant women. This has not prevented the CDC from claiming, with apparently no evidence, that H1N1 shots are 'expected to be' safe and even beneficial to the unborn children of pregnant women. [13]

In the UK, Pandemrix, the adjuvant-containing GSK H1N1 vaccine is being administered to pregnant women. This is in spite of GSK's own statement that:

"Information on outcomes from estimated more than 200,000 women who have been vaccinated during pregnancy is currently limited"

According to the same reference, the safety data for reproductive toxicity is based on the 'mock-up' vaccine with the H5N1 strain, and not the current H1N1/seasonal influenza combination. [14]

The uptake of vaccines by our own medical profession is hardly confidence inspiring with statistics indicating that as of April 2010, only 40% of HealthCare Workers (HCW) in England had received the H1N1 vaccine and only 26% had taken the seasonal influenza vaccine. [15] Our high street chemists are also refusing to vaccinate under 18's as it is not in line with their company policies or regulations. [16]

Playing Vaccine Russian Roulette With Your Health

What this amounts to for a very, very small number of deaths (just 39 in the UK in 2010), is massive risks being taken with a vaccine that does not have full safety data from clinical trials. In addition an enormous amount of our healthcare budget is going toward funding the vaccination programme. Bearing in mind the actual causes of death one would think that our government, if it's true intention was to save lives, would be to ensure that the most vulnerable groups in our society: the sick, disabled and elderly were kept warm and well fed this winter. Instead, ever rising energy prices, cuts in disability benefits and a hike in VAT are likely to achieve anything but, although I'm sure that these measures will see an ever more decadent lifestyle for those with a greedy thumb in the grossly enlarged Big Pharmaceuticals vaccinations pie. So for those out there considering a flu shot - think about the risks vs. the benefits - the risks of adverse events to you and your children and the benefits going to corporations and corpora-governments to the tune of US \$5 billion sales a year.

References:

[1] [Advances in Vaccine Technology and Delivery](#)

[2] [HPA Influenza Surveillance graphs](#)

[3] [HPA Weekly National Influenza Report](#)

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[4] [Diseases of the respiratory system](#)

Mortality in the UK

[5] [Poland is the only country known to have refused H1N1 swine flu vaccines due to safety concerns](#)

[6] [Finland Suspends H1N1 Vaccine](#)

[7] [Germans Want GSK Pandemrix Swine Flu Vaccine Scrapped - What Are The British Getting?](#)

[8] [Several nations ban flu shots for kids](#)

[9] [What 2010-11 seasonal influenza \(flu\) vaccines will be available for children and adults in the United States?](#)

[10] [Some Pediatric H1N1 Vaccine Recalled](#)

[11] [Immunogenicity of Fluzone in Children and Adults](#)

[12] [Thousands of USA pregnant women miscarry after the H1N1 vaccine](#)

[13] [NIAID Trial of 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine in Pregnant Women at the Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units](#)

[14] [Pandemrix](#)

The electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC)

[15] [Pandemic H1N1 \(Swine Flu\) and Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Uptake amongst Frontline Healthcare Workers in England 2009/10](#)

[16] [Back-to-school flu surge expected](#)