

Checkbook Science and Women's Health

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Checkbook Science

What is the Goal of Checkbook Science Research?

- To sell products
- NOT to expand knowledge
- NOT to benefit humanity

Is it Effective?

There are all kinds of checkbook science. The most effective industry influence

- Very well-hidden
- Media and the public are unaware of it

Excerpta Medica

What do they claim?

- Developed several new medical journals
- “establish a scientific base”

Where do they claim this?

- Their website
- Other public documents

Hormone Replacement Therapy

6 million women were taking hormones as the Fountain of Youth when NIH announced the study would be stopped because of risks

Dr. Robert Wilson Forever Feminine

Promoted hormones as a miracle cure

- To prevent the “living decay” that besets the often “dull and unattractive” menopausal woman

n Wyeth paid for his work and book

Early Research

- n Hormones were approved for hot flashes, not for long-term health
- n Long-term health claims based on studies of women who chose to take hormones
- n No double blind clinical trials
- n Women who took hormones might be more health conscious

Media in 1999-2001

- n "New therapy builds bone without unpleasant side effects"
- n "Study plays down estrogen link to breast cancer"
- n "Hormones may lower risk of breast cancer's return"

Study Stopped in July 2002 Because HRT linked to:

- n 41% more strokes
- n 29% more heart attacks
- n 26% more breast cancer
- n 100% increase in blood clots

Breast Implants:

Ignoring New Science
And Paying for Favorable Data

Two Important Numbers in 1991 when FDA asked for studies

- 1 million women had breast implants
- Zero empirical published studies on the health of women with implants

Marcia Angell's Book Science on Trial

Concluded that implants were safe

n Evidence of safety included:

- A plastic surgery association's marketing survey showing high satisfaction
- Studies funded by Dow Corning that included women who had implants for just one month or more

IOM Report on Silicone Breast Implants - 1999

- n Breast implants cause many local complications
- n Breast implants don't cause systemic disease: Based on
 - 17 studies
 - Almost all funded by implant manufacturers

News Media

- n New York Times broke embargo
 - “Panel confirms no major illness tied to implants”
- n Washington Post followed
 - “Study again clears silicone”

What do Complications Look Like?

What does safety look like?

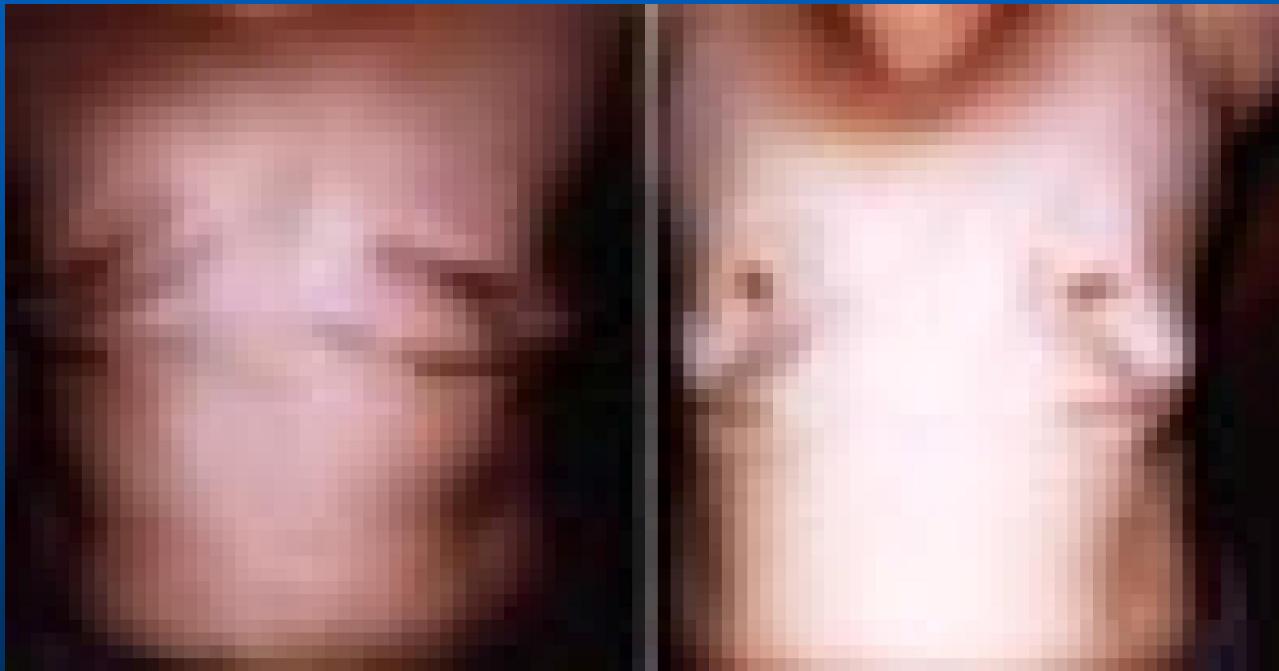
Necrosis in 22 Yr old Woman with implants for one week



**Photo of Breasts After Implant
Removal due to pain --29 yr old
From FDA Booklet**



Susan's Leaking Silicone Implants were removed



What Did FDA and NCI Studies Show in 2001?

- n Doubles risk of dying of brain cancer
- n Triples risk of dying of lung cancer and lung diseases
- n 4x the risk of suicide
- n Women with leaking silicone gel implants don't know it
- n Leaking silicone implants linked to fibromyalgia

What do new industry-funded studies show?

- n Triples the risk of suicide
- n Increases the risk of smoking
- n All silicone implants break after 15 years

Conclusions: Breast implants are safe, but the women have low self-esteem and bad health habits

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