

**PRESS RELEASE – April 30, 2017**

**Pittsburgh, PA**

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS CALL FOR BAN ON NEONATAL HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION**

*For Immediate Release*

Biomedical researchers at The Institute for Pure and Applied Knowledge (IPAK) are calling upon all Vaccine Risk Aware Americans to join them in their call of a ban on vaccination of infants in the NICU. The reasons? A lack of science demonstrating safety of the practice, and a concern over increasing death rates in infants born prematurely.

“We’ve asked the biomedical community to produce studies that show ill effect of vaccines on neonates, and they have not produced them. Aluminum is a serious neurotoxin, and body weight matters” says Dr. James Lyons-Weiler, PhD, CEO and Director of IPAK, “and our government agencies have slacked off in protecting our young from toxic doses of aluminum in vaccines.”

The Hepatitis-B, or HepB vaccine, contains 250 micrograms of aluminum hydroxide, an additive that is present to stimulate the immune system. Lyons-Weiler says that considering birthweight, the amount in pediatric vaccines exceeds the established safe levels of exposure of 4-5 mcg/kg/day, and are not based on safety studies, but rather on the levels needed to produce the desired immune stimulation.

While that sounds important, aluminum is widely known in the scientific community to be a potent neurotoxin. For an average-sized American male (3.3 kg), the amount of aluminum in HepB produces an acute exposure equal to 15 days’ worth of exposure at FDA safe limit of aluminum exposure in a single day for an adult.

“Our scientists have scoured the literature, and they have studied the provenance of aluminum levels in vaccines. They were surprised to find errors and gross mistakes, and to find that the levels set for aluminum in vaccines are not based on safety studies. What is known about aluminum safety is based mostly on dietary exposures to adult animals, not injected aluminum in mouse and rat pups with developing brains. The single study we found that did look at rat pup dietary exposures found developmental delays. Our agencies have allowed these levels to be used in babies regardless of body weight, and regardless of time units or duration of exposure” says Lyons-Weiler.

The safe levels 4-5 mcg/kg/day were derived for adult receiving aluminum via non-oral exposures, such as dialysis solutions via intravenous drip. Side effects include increased morbidity and mortality due to multiple molecular mechanisms, include neurotoxic effects.

Other individuals point out that the acute exposure is not the same as long-term exposure, but that does not change the IPAK position. They are calling for an immediate cessation of exposure of infants in the NICU to all injected forms of aluminum because, they say, no studies exist that show that the high levels of aluminum are safe for low-weight, premature infants.

The current guidelines suggest that vaccines may be delayed for infants who weigh less than 2 kg (4.4 lbs), but Lyons-Weiler says these guidelines are too loosely followed, and are not based on science.

“Until independent studies are conducted that reliably show that 250 micrograms of aluminum hydroxide are harmless to the long-term neurodevelopment of infants, we really should not wait for the

FDA to act. We are calling on all NICU directors in the US to look at the math, and to see for themselves that we are arbitrarily exposing our children to such massive doses of a neurotoxin needlessly. We are calling on all NICU directors and pediatricians to stop vaccinating all neonates and low-birthweight babies who not born to mothers with HepB infections. Acute toxicity from high aluminum doses is well established. We need to act now. We are also calling on all organizations who care about vaccine safety to sound this alarm”.

Hepatitis B infection status is usually known for mothers, and so each infant born is not likely to be exposed to Hepatitis B until they are much older.

**Dr. Lyons-Weiler’s statement:**

<http://ipaknowledge.org/nicu.php>

**Background Facts:**

- **Aluminum is the most abundant element from the Earth’s crust.**
- **Humans and living organisms were not exposed to aluminum until after the Industrial Age – it was tied up as aluminum silicate in the Earth’s crust.**
- **Aluminum is toxic to biological systems.**

**Supporting articles and studies:**

Demeo, S. et al., 2016. Adverse Events After Routine Immunization of Extremely Low Birth Weight Infants. JAMA Pediatr. 2015 169(8): 740–745.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4523398/>

Weiss, B. 2000. Vulnerability of Children and the Developing Brain to Neurotoxic Hazards. Environmental Health Perspectives Vol. 108, Supplement 3 (Jun., 2000), pp. 375-381. DOI: 10.2307/3454523

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3454523>

Dr. Jose F. Bernardo, MD, MPH. Aluminum Toxicity. Medscape. April 15, 2015.

<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/165315-overview>

Bonhoeffer J et a., 2006. Immunisation of premature infants. Arch Dis Child. 2006 Nov; 91(11): 929–935.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2082954/>

Sens, S. 2001. Adverse events following vaccination in premature infants. Acta Paediatr. 2001 Aug;90(8):916-20. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11529542>

Seneff, S et al, 2012. Empirical Data Confirm Autism Symptoms Related to Aluminum and Acetaminophen Exposure. Entropy 14:2227-2253. <http://www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/14/11/2227>

**Notes:**

- HepB vaccine contains 250 mcg Aluminum hydroxide
- FDA/CFR Safe Levels are 4-5 mcg/kg/day
- Average birthweight of male infants 7.5 kg
- HepB vaccine leads to 75.75 mcg/kg/day = 15 days of the safe limit

- Pediatric aluminum dosing in vaccines **ignores body weight**
- No studies demonstrate safety of this level of exposure
- FDA has no firm guidelines based on science on how to modify aluminum dosage in vaccine for body weight (cutoff of 2kg is loosely followed)
- No studies on neonates (e.g., vaxxed vs unvaxxed) therefore the safety profile of this level of exposure on that population is unknown.