

# FEEDBACK

## Lethal Injections

I understand that it is Gary Null's job to be a polemic gadfly, but his commentary on vaccinations in the article "Lethal Injections" (March) is misguided and pernicious. I will try to represent the voice of reason and clarify a few points.

Vaccinations are the most effective medical intervention ever devised. One hundred years ago, one in five children in the United States under the age of five died from respiratory infections, predominantly pertussis [whooping cough] and diphtheria. Smallpox killed more individuals worldwide in this period than all the wars of the twentieth century. Because of a rigorous vaccination program by the World Health Organization, the last recorded case of smallpox in the U.S. was in 1977. Improved public-health measures such as municipal water treatment have decreased the incidence and severity of most infectious diseases in general, but vaccinations still play a key role.

In countries like those of the former Soviet Union, where routine vaccinations have lapsed, we see predictable outbreaks of these same killer diseases that I have had the privilege never to have seen in children during medical school or medical residency in the U.S. Similarly, in areas where state-mandated discontinuation of vaccinations has taken place, predictable outbreaks occur a few years later. This happened with pertussis in England in recent years...

Vaccinations are far more natural than most medical interventions that we all take for



granted exhorting the body's own immune system to fight disease.

If we ever see another smallpox epidemic, I am sure that Gary Null will be early in line for his vaccine.—*William H. Culbert Jr., M.D., Tennessee*

*Gary Null responds:* In his letter Dr. Culbert points to vaccinations as the main factor responsible for the reduction in deaths from infectious diseases in children during the past century. This is a common belief; however, statistics show that the vast majority of diseases have actually declined preceding vaccines. For instance, according to data from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the combined death rate of diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, and whooping cough declined 95 percent among children from 1911 to 1945, before mass immunizations started in the U.S. The reasons for this decline are the same as those for the decline in all other infectious diseases: improved hygiene, housing,

sanitation, and nutrition. This is why countries that suffer from malnutrition, overcrowding, and lack of basic sanitary measures are still plagued by outbreaks of these diseases.

I have to object to the idea of vaccination as a "natural" intervention. When you inject, the vaccine is going directly into the blood system, which is not the natural port of entry for that virus. In fact the whole immune system is geared to prevent that from happening. Furthermore, vaccines are grown in media that can include rabbit-brain, dog-kidney, monkey-kidney, or chick-embryo tissue; chicken- or duck-egg protein; calf serum; pig or horse blood; or cowpox pus. These foreign proteins, plus such toxic ingredients as formaldehyde, mercury, and aluminum phosphate, are injected directly into the bloodstream, bypassing the filtration of the digestive process. I would not call this natural.

Lastly, since Dr. Culbert presents his own "voice of reason," it is my wish to represent other voices that need to be heard. These voices come from the thousands of parents who have witnessed their children dying, withdrawing into autism, or developing cerebral damage or other abnormalities after vaccination. They come from the hundreds of researchers who have demonstrated that vaccines are often neither safe nor effective. It is time that these voices are heard, as they surely eventually will be.

Another thing Dr. Culbert can be sure of is that if a smallpox epidemic recurs, I will not line up for the vaccine. ☐

**Gary Null (above): "If a smallpox epidemic recurs, I will not line up for the vaccine."**