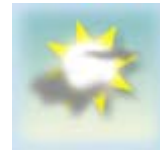




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ABC 7 Medical: Aspartame & Cancer

- Monday June 25, 2007 5:40 pm


-WJLA Script-

Anchor:
ONCE AGAIN ASPARTAME IS IN THE HEADLINES...ONCE AGAIN BECAUSE OF IT'S POSSIBLE LINK TO CAUSING CANCER.

FOOD LOBBYISTS POINT TO HUNDREDS OF STUDIES THAT SAY THE ARTIFICIAL SWEETNER IS COMPLETELY SAFE... SO WHY DOES THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST WANT IT PULLED FROM THE MARKET?

MEDICAL REPORTER KATHY FOWLER JOINS US WITH THIS STORY.

Kathy Fowler on set:
TONIGHT CSPI IS ASKING THE FDA TO IMMEDIATELY REVIEW AN ASPARTAME STUDY WHICH FOUND THE SWEETNER IS LINKED TO AN INCREASE IN CANCER.



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THE FOOD POLICE WHICH HAS BEEN ON THE SIDELINES FOR MUCH OF THIS NEARLY 30 YEAR OLD DEBATE SAYS THERE IS "NOW" ENOUGH EVIDENCE WARN THE PUBLIC "NOT" TO USE THIS SWEETNER.

Story:
ASPARTAME IS IN THOUSANDS OF EVERYDAY FOODS AT THE GROCERY STORE. IF YOU SEE THE WORDS "DIET" OR "LOW IN SUGAR" ON THE FOOD OR DRINK CHANCES ARE IT CONTAINS THE ARTIFICIAL SWEETNER. THERE IS A NEW ASPARTAME STUDY OUT OF ITALY - BACKING UP ANOTHER STUDY DONE IN 2005 - SHOWING A STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN LYMPHOMAS AND LEUKEMIAS IN RATS.



Michael Jacobson, Center for Science in the Public Interest: "There's a law that says if food additives causes cancer in animals it has to come off the market and I think now with the second study done by a respected lab published in a peer reviewed journal, the evidence is there to get it off."

A FORMER NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE SCIENTIST WHO NOW CONSULTS WITH THE AMERICAN BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION SAYS THIS CURRENT STUDY IS FLAWED.

Richard Adamson, Ph.d., Scientific Consultant American Beverage Association: "The study is wrong, it completely contradicts a very recent study done by the National Cancer Institute that showed over 500,000 people using aspartame had no increase incidence of cancer."

CSPI'S MICHAEL JACOBSON SAYS SPLENDA IS THE ONLY ARTIFICIAL SWEETNER THAT APPEARS SAFE IN THE LAB BUT WARNS THE ONLY LONG TERM SAFETY STUDIES ON IT HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE MANUFACTURER.

Kathy Fowler on set:

THE FDA SAYS TO DATE ALL THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTS ASPARTAME IS SAFE. THE FEDERAL AGENCY IS IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING THIS LATEST STUDY BUT SAYS IT'S TOO SOON TO COMMENT.

FDA statement: FDA has received none of the data or study reports so it is too soon to comment further at this point. Our basic position can be pulled from our bottom line in our April 07 statement regarding the first Ramazzini study...to date we don't have evidence that would support a change in our conclusions about the safety of aspartame... <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/fpaspar2.html>

GMA Statement Regarding Ramazzini Institute Aspartame Study: The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) issued the following statement from Pat Verduin, GMA Senior Vice President and Chief Science Officer, regarding an aspartame study conducted by Italy's Ramazzini Institute:

"Bolstering consumer confidence and helping to ensure food safety is one of GMA's top priorities. This includes the assured safety of sweetener ingredients. Aspartame is one of the most widely researched ingredients in the food supply, and hundreds of scientific studies and reports, both in the U.S. and internationally, have confirmed the safety of aspartame.

"GMA agrees with the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. National Cancer Institute, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives of the World Health Organization, the Scientific Committee on Food of the European Union, as well as scientists and regulatory agencies in more than 100 countries who have all found aspartame to be safe. There is a plethora of scientific studies, reports, databases, and regulatory rulings indicating there is no evidence to support any notion that aspartame is carcinogenic. GMA approaches the study with significant skepticism."

Opinions and Feedback

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