



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

This week's Topic: Abortion and Breast Cancer



Education: In spite of denial from pro-abortion sources, there is no question that abortion causes an increased risk of breast cancer. Estrogen, the female hormone, acts to stimulate cell division in the breast. Since the risk of mutation increases with more cell division, longer exposure to estrogen increases the risk of breast cancer. Another chemical, which is formed as estrogen is broken down in the body, can cause damage to the DNA, again increasing the risk of cancer. Therefore early puberty, late menopause, and use of artificial contraception containing estrogen, all also contribute to an increased risk of breast cancer.

During the first two trimesters of pregnancy, estrogen levels increase dramatically, and the breasts grow. Late in pregnancy and after birth, further changes occur to prepare for the production of milk, and these changes make the breast cells less susceptible to cancer. The exposure to high levels of estrogen in early pregnancy, without the later protective effect of changes to reduce susceptibility to cancer clearly increases the risk of breast cancer. When pregnancy is interrupted by miscarriage rather than abortion, there may also be an increased risk. However, many miscarriages occur early in pregnancy and are characterized by lower estrogen levels. In those cases, there is no significant increase in cancer risk. See the information sheet, "Abortion and Breast Cancer" on Christian Voices for Life web site for a more complete discussion.



Prayer: Dear Father God, please help women hear the truth about abortion and breast cancer. Help all women who are tempted to abort be aware of all the risks of abortion, for both physical and emotional hurt, in order to encourage their choice for life. Help them to seek and find life-affirming solutions to whatever problems they are facing. We ask for your protection for women who do abort, that they be spared this affliction. We also ask for conversion on the part of those who deny the connection between breast cancer and abortion, that the truth will be clear to all.



Action: When the subject of breast cancer or mammograms comes up, mention that it is a shame that women are not being told the truth that abortion increases the risk of breast cancer. If anyone denies that is the case, refer them to Chapter 8, "Pregnancy and Breast Cancer Risk" of an online booklet at the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute which discusses breast physiology and several risk factors. The booklet is available at <http://www.bcpinstitute.org/booklet4.htm> .