Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Why a Sharp Increase in Breast Cancer in Younger Women?

Education: Breast cancer in women less than 50 years old has been sharply increasing since 2016. Measuring the incidence of breast cancer with *distant involvement at diagnosis* per 100,000 women age 25-39, there was an increase from 1.53 in 1976 to 2.90 in 2009. (1) Measuring the incidence of *primary invasive* breast cancer per 100,000 women age 20-49, there was a slow increase from about 64 to 66 from 2000 to 2016, but increased sharply to 74 in 2019. (2) The same source notes that the prognosis for younger women is less favorable than for older women.

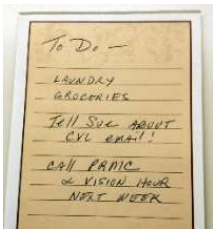
Why is this happening? In 2006, a meta-analysis was done of 23 studies, showing a clear connection between the Pill and breast cancer. The risk is greatest for women who take the pill for 4 or more years before ever having children.(3) In addition to the increased risk of breast cancer from oral contraceptives, abortion also causes an increased risk of breast cancer. In spite of denial from pro-abortion sources, the evidence for the relationship is overwhelming, and reason for it is understood. Briefly, during early pregnancy, there is an increase in the number of cells susceptible to cancer. Later in pregnancy further changes greatly lowers the susceptibility to cancer. Therefore, an interrupted pregnancy, along with delaying the first complete pregnancy, will increase risk. (4)

So why the increase after 2016? Abortion was legalized in 1973, but it took until the 1980's to reach a plateau level of 1.6 million/yr. Women age 15-25 in 1980 would be 45 - 55 in 2010. That same age group in 1990 would be 45- 55 in 2020. As more and more women in 20- 49 age group have had abortions, the rate increased. This correlation does not prove a cause and effect, but it certainly brings up that possibility.

1. JAMA* 2013; 309(8):800-805. Available at https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/1656255
2. JAMA 2024: https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2814306
3. Kahlenborn, C et al "Oral contraceptive use as a risk factor for premenopausal breast cancer: A meta-analysis" 2006 Mayo Clinic Proc 2006 81(10): 1290-1302
4. Breast Cancer Risks and Prevention 4th Edition, 2005. Available at https://www.bcpinstitute.org/resources---books---bc-risk--prevention.html

*JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association .

Prayer: Dear Father God, please help women hear the truth about the health risks of both contraception and abortion. Help unmarried women realize the value of chastity and married couples learn about fertility-awareness based methods of family planning. 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 support and solutions to whatever problems they are facing. We also ask for conversion on the part of those who deny the dangers of contraception and 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 the incidence of breast cancer among women under 50 sharply increased after 2016, and the incidence of breast cancer already found outside the breast at first diagnosis for women 20-39 almost doubled between 1976 and 2009. These increases correspond to increases in the use of birth control pills and abortion. It is a shame that women are not being told the truth that oral contraceptives and abortion have been shown in medical research to increase the risk of breast cancer.