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What the Canadian Cancer Society isn't telling CBC's Wendy Mesley could be killing Canadian women

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OTTAWA – “If the Canadian Cancer Society is not telling Canadians the truth about the birth control pill’s link to breast cancer, what else is the Canadian Cancer Society withholding?” asked MP Maurice Vellacott, commenting on CBC reporter Wendy Mesley’s documentary, “Chasing the Cancer Answer” which aired recently on CBC’s *Marketplace*.

Pathologist Dr. Samuel Epstein, a professor at the University of Chicago and author of the book, *Cancer-Gate: How to win the losing cancer war*, told Mesley that Canada is in a cancer epidemic and the Canadian cancer establishment is not informing Canadians about the vast body of information on the avoidable causes of cancer.

When asked about the birth control pill, Dr. Epstein told Mesley, “The pill is the largest unregulated human trial that’s ever been conducted.” The World Health Organization issued a press release in July 2005 stating that the birth control pill is carcinogenic and increases the risk of cervical, liver and breast cancer. When questioned why this updated warning was not passed on to Canadian women, Barbara Wylie of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) told Mesley, “I’ll have our folks take a look at it, Wendy.”

“In the interests of women, I hope the Canadian Cancer Society will also take a look at another risk factor for breast cancer, and a preventable one at that,” Vellacott said. “Induced abortion.” Since 1957, evidence linking induced abortion to breast cancer has been observed in over 40 studies worldwide. A 1996 meta-analysis conducted by Dr. Joel Brind, professor of endocrinology at Baruch College, City University of New York, established abortion as a significant independent risk factor for developing breast cancer. (See www.abortionbreastcancer.com, www.abortionbreastcancer.ca, and www.bcpinstitute.org; also see Dr. Brind’s Dec. 2005 critical review of all the recent studies over the last 9 years at <http://www.jpands.org/vol10no4/brind.pdf>; to reach Dr. Joel Brind, email: info@bcpinstitute.org or phone: 866-622-6237.)

“In the interests of women’s health, I have previously corresponded with the Canadian Cancer Society on this issue, but they refused to take a serious look at the relationship between abortion and breast cancer as I requested,” Vellacott said.

The Canadian Cancer Society’s website claims that scientific evidence does not support the relationship between abortion and breast cancer. “There is not only strong epidemiological evidence to support the link, but also a very plausible biological basis for it as well, according to Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School,” said Vellacott. “It has to do with the natural maturation process of breast cells during pregnancy,” Vellacott explained. “When a woman becomes pregnant, changes occur in the breast tissue cells in preparation for lactation—the cells multiply rapidly and become susceptible to cancer due to the large amounts of estrogen present during early pregnancy. But as the pregnancy

is allowed to continue past 32 weeks, the cells undergo another change which causes them to mature into milk-producing cells resistant to cancer. So when a pregnancy is abruptly terminated during an induced abortion, the maturation process is halted and the immature cells remain in the cancer-vulnerable state.” (Contact Angela Lanfranchi, MD FACS at info@bcpinstitute.org or 732-356-0770 for a detailed explanation of this process.)

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian women and an average of 102 Canadian women will die of breast cancer every week. According to the Breast Cancer Society of Canada, “The cause of breast cancer is unknown and cannot be prevented.” According to Dr. Epstein, we are waiting until people get cancer, then we try to treat it. In 2006, cancer drugs will be the fastest growing class of pharmaceuticals in the world, exceeding \$37 billion in sales.

Vellacott asks, “Why will the Canadian Cancer Society not take an objective look at what the research says about the link between abortion and breast cancer if they’re serious about prevention?” Dr. Epstein accuses the cancer establishment of “damage control” (screening, diagnosis, treatment) rather than prevention. Vellacott notes that pharmaceutical companies don’t make money by preventing cancer. The Canadian Cancer Society spends only 10% of its budget on cancer prevention, according to the *Marketplace* Documentary. Vellacott asks, “I wonder how much money the Canadian Cancer Society is receiving from pharmaceutical companies? I hope that the cancer establishment does not let interests other than women’s health dictate its business.”

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For additional comment from Maurice Vellacott call 613-992-1966 or 613-297-2249