

Adjuvants and You

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The term 'adjuvants' may be a new one to your vocabulary, but in expanding your understanding of vaccines, it is a word to be acquainted with.

The word adjuvant comes from a Latin word that means 'to help'. In immunology, an adjuvant is a substance that is added to a vaccine to enhance (turbo charge) your immune response to the vaccination. Adjuvants cause your immune system to overreact to the introduction of the organism you are being vaccinated against so that less vaccine is needed to produce more antibodies. One of the benefits of adding an adjuvant is that it reduces vaccine production costs.

In research with humans, aluminum phosphate and aluminum hydroxide gel are the commonly used adjuvants. Although the use of aluminum in vaccines has its own controversies regarding its neurotoxic effects, it is the adjuvant approved of for human use in the U.S. by the FDA.

For decades, vaccine developers have been tinkering with various substances to trick the body into a heightened immune response. The most effective adjuvants are formulated with oils but have long been considered too reactive for use in humans.

A recent oil adjuvant, however, called squalene is on the scene for use in vaccines. It has a proven ability to stimulate a strong response from the immune system and has been being used in European vaccines.

Squalene is an organic compound that is contained in botanical sources such as amaranth seed, rice bran, wheat germ and olives. It is also naturally found in the bodies of many animals, including humans. Our bodies actually produce squalene. The squalene harvested for commercial purposes, such as a vaccine adjuvant, is primarily resourced from shark liver oil.

You could, and actually do, eat squalene through its natural food sources. The body metabolizes it appropriately through the channels of digestion. Injecting squalene directly into the bloodstream, though, is another story and has some important points of concern to consider.

"The chemical nature of adjuvants, their mode of action and their reactions (side effects) are highly variable in terms of how they affect the immune system and how serious their adverse effects are due to the resultant hyperactivation of the immune system. While adjuvants enable the use of less antigen to achieve the desired immune response and reduce vaccine production costs, with few exceptions, adjuvants are foreign to the body and cause adverse reactions", writes Australian scientist Viera Scheibner Ph.D. author of *Vaccination: 100 Years of Orthodox Research shows that Vaccines Represent a Medical Assault on the Immune System and Behavioral Problems in Childhood – The Link to Vaccination*.

"When UCLA Medical School's Michael Whitehouse and Frances Beck injected squalene combined with other materials into rats and guinea pigs back in the 1970's, few oils were more effective at causing the animal versions of arthritis and multiple sclerosis", writes Gary Matsumoto author of *Vaccine-A: The Covert Experiment That's Killing Our Soldiers--And Why GI's Are Only The First Victim*. Rats injected with squalene all developed experimental allergic encephalomyelitis – similar to the symptoms of multiple sclerosis (MS). "The injected animals were left hobbled, dragging their paralyzed hindquarters through the wood chips in their cages."

In 1999, Dr. Johnny Lorentzen, an immunologist at Sweden's Karolinska Institute proved that on injection, "otherwise benign molecules like squalene can stimulate a self-destructive immune response", even though they occur naturally in the body

Self-destructive immune responses are the case in autoimmune diseases. These diseases are chronic and progressively debilitating ailments that happen when the body becomes self-destructive. It is when the immune system loses its ability to distinguish what is 'self' from what is foreign. Multiple sclerosis, lupus, fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue are examples of autoimmune responses in the body.

Under normal circumstances, your immune system ignores the constituents of your own body. Immunologists call this 'tolerance'. But if tolerance is broken, the immune system turns relentlessly self-destructive, attacking the very body it is supposed to defend. Adjuvants have the ability to break tolerance.

There is no squalene adjuvant in any US-licensed vaccine. To date, the FDA has licensed, and US manufacturers have used, only aluminum salts (for example, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate, and aluminum potassium sulfate) as adjuvants. The United States, however, has recently invested 7 billion dollars into supplies of oil-based adjuvants such as squalene. Is it to be used in the upcoming swine flu vaccine?

The swine flu vaccine was put into clinical trial as of July 22, 2009. The vaccine that is being tested does not have the adjuvants added. The vaccine is being tested on 'healthy' persons, beginning with those of ages 18-64 years old and then if all goes well, it will be tested 'healthy' children ages 6 months to 17 years. If, after three weeks of testing in each age group there are no complications, the vaccine will then be released as 'safe' to be used on people of any health status, including those whose health is compromised as well as women who are pregnant who will not have been tested in the trials.

Autoimmune responses take much longer than 3 weeks to reveal themselves. They can take months to years.

There was a law set into motion in 2006 called the Public Readiness & Emergency Preparedness Act. PREPA allows the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to invoke almost complete immunity from liability for manufacturers of vaccines and drugs used to combat a declared public health emergency. A new provision to that law signed into effect this past July 17, 2009 removes the right to a jury trial for persons injured by any vaccine, "granting immunity to future swine flu vaccines and any associated adjuvants".

Once the PREP Act is invoked to shield manufacturers from liability, the pharmaceutical firms have no financial incentive to make the safest product. They actually have a negative incentive to test it for safety, for if there were safety concerns, they could be accused of 'deliberate harm'. As long as they do not deliberately harm consumers of the product, they will not be liable for damages.

The last time the government embarked on a major vaccine campaign against a new swine flu which was in 1976, thousands filed claims contending they suffered side effects from the shots. This time around, there will be no recourse.

There are a host of websites that address the complications of vaccines. These websites originate from the point of view of concerned doctors as well as the parents of vaccine injured children. The parents are, as one might expect, the most passionate.

A newly formed Medical Voices Vaccine Information Center (www.mvviv.org) brings awareness of vaccine issues to the forefront via medical doctors. The site is to become a massive library of articles, videos and presentations by doctors speaking out on the dangers of vaccines. The aim is to be an educational site for doctors who are beginning to question and become aware of the problems caused by vaccines and, additionally, a go-to resource for the public at large. This group is putting forward a webinar series on the concerns of vaccines with the mission to help educate. I encourage you to explore it.

I have along the way been accused of being an alarmist and unduly scaring people. I just believe that you have the right to be aware of the risks in mass vaccination campaigns and that the medical and news media will not be presenting you with the other side of the story. You owe it to yourself and your family to educate yourself.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) by their own estimation figured that by the end of this summer 100 million people will have already been infected by the swine flu (they may have had a cold or flu) and have built up antibodies to it. Is taking a new swine flu vaccine that hasn't undergone proper safety tests be worth the risk?

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