



Excerpt from article: *Standing by your man can be a mistake* by Allison Pearson
Published 30 September, 2009

Why did I trust doctors and let my girl have the jab?

Schoolgirl Natalie Morton has died after being given the cervical cancer vaccine. For her family it is a tragedy. But we must remember 1.4 million girls have had the jab so far, most without any side-effects.

My daughter had the jab six months ago. The only problem she and her friends reported was feeling a bit dizzy.

What angers me is that, like other parents, I let my child have the vaccination in good faith.

I believed there was one tried-and-tested type available, and that's what my daughter would get.

Yesterday, I was absolutely stunned to read that there are, in fact, TWO vaccines.

Most European countries use the more expensive Gardasil, which offers additional protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

Guess which country decided to go with the bargain-basement option?

Yup, our leaders, so lavish with their own expenses, appear to have chosen to save money on the health of young girls.

Cervarix was picked because it 'offered best overall value for the NHS'.

I have no idea of the relative merits of the two vaccines.

I have to rely on the experts to guide me. But my Government won't publish the assessments it made of the two HPV vaccines. Nor, according to Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley, will it say why we use a different vaccine to other countries.

Why were we not told a deluxe version of the vaccine was available? Why has no one explained why our daughters need to have the jab three or four years before they become sexually active?

Is it because the campaign targets the lowest common denominator and makes the grim assumption that under-age sex is the norm?

This is precisely the kind of ignorance that causes mass panic. Why should a girl have to die to bring the debate into the open?

- [Mobility](#)
- [Vouchers](#)
- [Auctions](#)
- [Bingo](#)
- [Lose Weight](#)
- [Franchising](#)
- [Shopping](#)
- [Book Shop](#)
- [Compare Broadband](#)
- [Wine Shop](#)
- [Cruises](#)

Columnists



Richard and Judy
Read the latest column now

Nick Ferrari
Read the latest column now



Frederick Forsyth
Read the latest column now



Ann Widdecombe
Read the latest column now

A number of girls at the school reported "dizziness and nausea", but they had not required hospitalisation or medical treatment.

Britain is so far the only country in the world to be using Cervarix, made by GlaxoSmithKline, for a nationwide vaccination programme.

UK NEWS SEARCH

SEARCH UK NEWS for:

SEARCH

In America, Cervarix was refused a licence in 2007 while further investigations were carried out into possible side-effects. A report released by the drug safety watchdog, the MHRA, last month showed that, of the 700,000 schoolgirls vaccinated last year, more than 1,300 of them had officially reported an adverse reaction.

They ranged from minor complaints to more serious ones such as convulsions.

Last night, Jackie Fletcher of Jabs, a campaign group for safe vaccinations, called for immediate withdrawal of all the HPV jabs. She said: "These dangerous side-effects must be investigated straight away. Recalling the jabs is not scare-mongering."

Some parents are so anxious about the possible side-effects of the drug, they have chosen to "opt-out" of the vaccination programme.

Dr Pim Kon, medical director at GlaxoSmithKline UK, said: "We are working with the Department of Health and MHRA to better understand this case as at this stage the exact cause of this tragic death is unknown."

amazon.co.uk
Privacy
Get Widget

Great Deals in Books



Life and Laughing: My Story
~~£20.00~~ £9.99 (50% off)



Buy now!

