

Lecturer sees certain vaccines 'time bombs'

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A DIFFICULT birth and worries about immunising her own son led Mrs Hilary Butler, of Tuakau, to start looking at the long-term effects of immunisation.

That was six years ago. Since then, she has published three papers on the topic and she is putting together a book.

Mrs Butler last night lectured at Baycourt on immunisation and hepatitis B.

Research she had undertaken suggested that immunising people with certain vaccines was loading them with a "time bomb"

Vaccines such as the oral polio vaccine administered after 1962 in the United States were contaminated with animal viruses, she said.

Most vaccines were grown in animal cultures such as monkey kidneys or bovine serum. Mrs Butler believed this was where the contamination occurs.

Cultures

"The polio vaccine was contaminated from the monkey cell culture it was grown in," she said.

"Known as SV40, this monkey virus may cause cancer and activate other unknown viruses in the body.

"Some doctors in the United States believe this monkey virus in the polio vaccine causes Aids."

Mrs Butler said a lot of vaccines such as polio, rubella and hepatitis B could be contaminated with any number of viruses from the culture they were grown in.

"If you inject something contaminated into people's bodies it could start off a reaction which is worse than the disease you are supposed to be protecting that person from," she said.

Mrs Butler said that until vaccines were totally pure, they were a risk.

But she did not deny that some vaccines prevented disease. She believed the question needed to be asked: "Should we trade off acute untreatable diseases caused by viruses against treatable ones?"

Mrs Butler challenged

the assumption that vaccines were guaranteed protection. She believed that people had an unrealistic fear of disease and were easily persuaded to immunise themselves or have their children vaccinated.

Disagreed

"They do not realise that in most cases they are putting themselves more at risk by allowing the vaccine to be injected into their bodies," she said.

But Dr Philip Shoemack director of community

health at Tauranga Hospital, who was at the meeting, said he disagrees with everything Mrs Butler said.

"She was selectively quoting from pieces of research," he said. "Anyone can present a case which is convincing if they do that."

Dr Shoemack said there were some side effects from vaccines, but he put the question to Mrs Butler: "What is the worth of life?"

He said many vaccines prevented suffering and

saved lives.

"No one is suggesting that vaccines are 100 per cent safe," he said. "Reactions do occur but not on the scale Mrs Butler says."

Dr Shoemack said that even if 80 per cent of children were vaccinated, the virus level in the community would be sufficiently lowered so that the remaining 20 per cent would be unlikely to get the virus.

"We don't have to vaccinate every child," he said.

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Nutrition more vital than vaccines

Parents would be better to concentrate on ensuring their children had a balanced diet and observed basic hygiene standards, than vaccinate them — that's the view of Hilary Butler of Auckland, a researcher on non-immunisation.

Mrs Butler told a public meeting this week, organised by the Tauranga Home Birth Association, that immunisation may not protect youngsters from disease and may in fact cause severe side effects.

Her address plus the question time that followed, was filmed by a crew from the Eye Witness television programme as part of a documentary on vaccinations.

Mrs Butler suggested parents should take responsibility for their own and their children's health rather than leave it to doctors and the Health Department.

She encouraged parents to question the need for vaccines and to do their own research on the subject before making a decision to have their children immunised.

Mrs Butler also linked AIDS with immunisation. Those at high risk from the disease were people with a pre-condition of imbalance in the immune system, she said.

"The group with the most exaggerated form are the high risk groups, homosexuals and drug abusers, and persons receiving any blood products.

"For those not in the high risk groups I am told, off the record, that this means those who have received desensitisation shots, blood products of any kind and immunisation.

"The AIDS researchers who told me this sav

that they won't allow their families to have these things and try to persuade their friends not to either.

"One has to ask the question — are these people over reacting, are they understating the problem? If this is so, do we have the same right as they to refuse these products? This is not something I can answer for you, but my personal opinion is that such products are viewed with deep concern by myself," she said.

Mrs Butler said experts had told her AIDS was likely to explode in eight to 10 years and the 0-8 year olds of the low risk group would be the first to die because they would have the highest level of sensitised T-cells (part of the immune system) waiting as the basic immune profile for AIDS.

"I believe it is time we stopped lazing around complacently looking at so-called risk groups and realised that our future depends on well nourished, intact, de-stressed, naturally functioning immune systems. Forget scapegoats for our children's sake, it is high time we looked at our own doorstep," she said.

Mrs Butler's research, her published papers and her public campaigning on immunisation has attracted the attention of the Department of Health which Mrs Butler said is soon to launch its own publicity campaign counter-acting her work.