

# How Vaccines, Beef Burgers and Blood Donation Caused Variant CJD

## Written by Joanna Karpasea Jones

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In the summer of 1985, cow number 142 at Pitsham Farm in Sussex, England, became ill with a strange disease which affected its coordination. The animal shook, and appeared disorientated. It was killed, and a post-mortem performed. However, a diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy was not made until the following year, after several more cattle had exhibited similar symptoms.

Throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s, the public was reassured that this disease, never before seen in cattle, could not transmit to humans; and government minister, John Gummer, even fed beef burgers to his four year old daughter, Cordelia, on national television, to try and prove a point.

Then, in May 1993, 16 year old Vicky Rimmer began suffering from dizziness, poor memory and neck pains, which later progressed to paralysis and blindness. Vicky was diagnosed with vCJD in August of that year, and it took her an agonising four years to die.

She'd been a big lover of beef burgers. She died, aged 20, on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1997.

Vicky's diagnosis was retracted, and her grandmother, Beryl, who'd raised her since babyhood, was threatened to keep her mouth shut by the meat industry.

Then in 1994, Royal Air Force Cadet, Stephen Churchill, became ill with the same symptoms. He died of vCJD on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1995.

The government had to concede that, in actual fact, BSE could transmit to humans. But while panicked members of the public were boycotting British beef, they were still vaccinating their children with vaccines containing bovine brain and heart serum.

I was alerted to this fact in 1997, shortly after founding VAN UK. I read a report in the British Medical Journal, stating that Italy had banned the Hib vaccine because it contained heart-brain infusion, which they were worried was contaminated with BSE.

'The Italian Ministry of Health has suspended the use and marketing of a vaccine against *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) because of fears that it could transmit bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to humans.

The police were called in to seize batches of Hib TITER from the Italian outlets of the US manufacturer Wyeth-Lederle on 17 January. The vaccine was used in the Italian National Vaccination Programme, but the use of bovine heart-brain infusion agar to promote bacterial growth early in the manufacturing process has worried the Commissione Unica per il Farmaco, which is part of the Ministry of Health' - *BMJ* 1997;314:393 (8 February). Concerned, I wrote to the Department of Health, asking why British vaccines containing bovine serum had not been recalled. They wrote back to me on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1997, saying "Safeguards have been put in place to minimise the potential for contamination (of vaccines) with BSE." I pointed out to them that at no time during the BSE crisis, did the government ever mention this minimal risk to parents, and the fact that bovine serum was used in vaccines. Why not? How many parents would choose to vaccinate if they knew there was a minimal risk of their child dying of a debilitating brain disease? I put it to them that they had deliberately withheld this information from the public. They never replied to my letter.

Other vaccines made with bovine serum during the crisis included:

1. Smithkline MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), finally replaced by end of 1992
2. Wellcome combined Diphtheria and Tetanus
3. Wellcome DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus Pertussis), last issued June 1991
4. Wellcome single component Diphtheria vaccine, last issued in October 1991
5. Wellcome Tetanus, last issued in December 1991 with a December 1993 expiry date
6. Wellcome oral Polio vaccine, last issue and expiry dates are not known
7. Smithkline inactivated Polio vaccine ~ apparently issued only to foreigners.

A data sheet for BCG vaccine states that it's made from 'an attenuated strain of living bovine tubercle bacillus, *Mycobacterium bovis*' ~ i.e. using TB infected cattle to make the vaccine ~ (<http://emc.medicines.org.uk/medicine/7779/SPC/ImmuCyst+81mg/>).

In addition, the Medeva oral polio vaccine used in the UK and Ireland was recalled in 2000, due to it containing foetal bovine serum (material from unborn calves):

'On 20 October, 2000, Evans/Medeva Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), which to the knowledge of the World Health Organization has only been used in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, was recalled in the UK. The specific concern is that foetal bovine calf serum (FCS) from the UK was used in the manufacture of the Evans/Medeva vaccine, at a time when there was a risk of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in that country. WHO endorses the recall step as a precaution.' ~ (<http://who.int/inf-pr-2000/en/state2000-08.html>)

Over two million vaccines that were given to children during the 1980s and 90s were made using infected cattle.

Bovine serum is still used in vaccines today, even though vCJD has now caused 171 deaths in young British people, and professor John Collinge estimates that one in every thousand people could be carrying vCJD. How many of these will go on to develop the disease is unclear.

According to the 2006 Canadian Immunization Guide, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (which was updated in 2008), IPV vaccines, MMR 2, Pediacel 5 in 1 vaccine, pentacel vaccine, quadracel, varicella and rotateq oral rotavirus vaccine all contain bovine serum: ([http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/pdf/avtables\\_revised0803-eng.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/pdf/avtables_revised0803-eng.pdf))

The MMR 2 and pediacel vaccines are used in the UK.

## 18 Blood Donors Developed vCJD

Eighteen blood donors were found to be infected with vCJD, and later died. Their blood was used for the following products:

- Ireland: Polio vaccine ~ 83,500 doses
- Brazil: Albumin ~ 44,864 vials, immunoglobulin 80 vials
- Dubai: Albumin ~ 2,400 vials
- India: Albumin ~ 953 vials
- Turkey: Ammunoglobulin ~ 840 vials
- Brunei: Albumin ~ 400 vials
- Egypt: Albumin ~ 144 vials
- Morocco: Albumin ~ 100 vials
- Oman: Immunoglobulin ~ 100 vials
- Russia: Factor VIII ~ 23 vials
- Singapore: Immunoglobulin ~ 3 vials

As human albumin is used as a vaccine ingredient, there may have been other vaccines as well as the 83,500 doses of Polio

vaccine that were affected. MR, MMR and Rabies also contain human albumin, and as there is no screening test for vCJD prior to blood donation, this is a concern.

### **Justice For Andy**

Andy Black died on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the age of 24. He was a bright, up and coming radio presenter and tv producer. His mother, Christine, believes that contaminated school dinners and vaccinations he received caused his vCJD.

*My son, Andrew, was admitted to hospital by a locum GP who took one look at Andrew and said "This young man is seriously neurologically ill."*

*Within ten days I was sitting in a side room, just 20 feet from my Andrew's hospital bed, to be told "We believe your son has vCJD, and has probably only six months to live. He will become bedridden, unable to move, talk, swallow, will become blind, deaf and have no memory." His consultant also said "a stray burger did not do this" (the damage to Andrew's brain).*

*After going into the loo and having a little cry, I pinned the smile back on my face and sat by Andrew's bed. He asked "Well, what did they say?"*

*I told him he had a virus, which although would make him poorly, he'd recover from...how could I, as Andrew's mum, take away all hope from a 24 year old young man?*

*For the rest of the afternoon and into the Summer's evening, I chatted away. We watched tv, went for a walk...Andrew could just manage to the end of the corridor if I held him up. Then I used a wheelchair to take him out into the sunshine...all the time inside my head I was silently screaming "My beautiful boy is dying of vCJD".*

*I spent the next nine hours at his bedside, laughing, smiling and making Andrew feel safe, because even when our hearts are breaking, that's what mums do.*

*When Andy was discharged from hospital, a member of the CJD Edinburgh Surveillance Unit came to visit our home. The Unit's job is to research and gather data regarding victims, their lifestyles and routines, to find a common link/dietary factor or lifestyle choice that causes patients to develop vCJD. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Unit's Research Registrar, Dr. Gurjit Chohan (see Prof Will Tyrrell Committee), came to see us. Dr. Chohan asked me: "Since the beginning of 1980, has Andy been vaccinated? ... What year ...name of vaccine and route?" She also noted that Andy did not have the MMR, but DTP Diphtheria, and Polio, and that Polio was given orally, and that he'd had his BCG at aged 13 (1996). We know now these factors influenced Andy's risk, but at the time I knew nothing.*

*If I'd been given an informed choice and known the "risks" attached to immunisations during the BSE scandal, I'd never have allowed my son to be vaccinated. I believed I was protecting and nurturing my beloved boy, when, in fact, I could have been putting his life in jeopardy.*

*When my son lay dying he said, "Find out who did this to me, Mum, and expose them." He was always thinking of others, and said, "This must never happen again."*

*If I had known then, what I do now, about how vaccines were sourced, and that infected animals were used to process vaccines, my son would not have been inoculated, and may well still be alive.*

Transmission of disease by injection is a more proven method of transfer, and certainly more risky than eating food, which does not go directly into the bloodstream. Scientists were aware of this, but chose not to mention it for fear of causing a mass refusal to vaccinate. According to the BSE inquiry report by the government: 'The Working Group discussed the hazard-to-benefit ratio for the vaccines and decided that the benefits accruing from continuance of the vaccine programme outweighed the very remote risk to the

population from the use of bovine material in these products.' (<http://www.bseinquiry.gov.uk/report/volume7/chaptec5.htm>)

A scientist, who wishes to remain anonymous, told Christine:

"The easiest route of infection regarding vCJD is intravenous, and as people have died of vCJD through contaminated blood, it's very probable that some victims of vCJD developed their deadly disease through vaccines."

By December of 2007, Andy was blind, deaf and unaware of who he was. He died after a four day struggle, as his young body refused to give up trying to breathe, even though his brain had been ravaged by the disease.

Christine has now started a campaign in his memory to highlight the dangers of vaccines, blood products and contaminated baby and children's food, to prevent future tragedies and bring those responsible for the death of her son to justice.

See her website and documentary for more information and evidence: [www.justice4andy.com](http://www.justice4andy.com)

Thank you to Christine Lord for sharing information with me about the life of her son, Andy Black, and for allowing me to use some of the information from her website.



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