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Glyphosate Is In Us All: How RoundUp Contaminated Our Bodies and Our Environment

Monsanto is the object of much derision, and for good reasons. Millions of people have mobilized in protest of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in our food supply. It is a testament to the power of money in politics that only a handful of states have managed to pass legislation requiring GMOs to be labeled as such. But GMOs are only one side of Monsanto's ugly coin.

In the early 1970s Monsanto brought the herbicide Round Up to the market, decades prior to plants genetically programmed to resist its lethal effects. Since then, it has become the most widely used agricultural chemical in the world, with about 200 million pounds of it applied to lawns and fields in 2007. Since that time its use has grown dramatically, but specific numbers are not available.

The amount of all agricultural chemical residue on our foods is monitored, with safe levels established and enforced by the FDA. All chemicals except one, that is. No one knows how much Round Up is in our food supply. In a textbook case of government/industry collusion, Monsanto convinced the FDA that Round Up had no negative health effects on humans except possibly by drinking it in large quantities. This magical chemical, they claimed, targeted an enzyme system only present in plants, not animals.

The active ingredient in Round Up is a chemical called glyphosate. The studies Monsanto conducted to determine the safety of Round Up were flawed for two main reasons: 1) they lasted for a very short time, typically 3 months; 2) they used glyphosate alone, rather than the full mix of chemicals found in Round Up.

Longer term studies have shown that glyphosate consumption leads to increased breast cancer and severe stomach inflammation, while cows eating food sprayed with the chemical show multiple mineral depletions [read the abstract on page 2 if nothing else]. This is to be expected - in cows and in humans - due to glyphosate's ability to bind up many minerals and render them unavailable for absorption and utilization by the body.

The second sleight of hand is that studies were done on glyphosate alone, and not the full chemical soup that is Round Up. The herbicide actually contains many chemicals, and studies now make it clear that their combination is much worse than glyphosate alone. A recent review of this problem was published recently. While the details of the review are a bit tedious, the summary provided by the authors states the problem quite clearly:

“Altogether, these results challenge the establishment of guidance values such as the acceptable daily intake of glyphosate, when these are mostly based on a long term in vivo test of glyphosate alone. Since pesticides are always used with adjuvants that could change their toxicity, the necessity to assess their whole formulations as mixtures becomes obvious.”

The punchline is this: toxicity guidelines are based upon studies of glyphosate alone. However, glyphosate in combination with other chemicals - as in Round Up - creates toxicities for a much wider range of organisms, including humans.

Glyphosate is very likely to work in combination with other common environmental pollutants to cause a wide range of health problems. The most concerning of these is aluminum. This metal has no necessary role to play in the human body, and in fact has already been associated with a wide range of health problems, including Alzheimer's disease.

To make the aluminum problem even worse, glyphosate will bind aluminum in the digestive tract and the blood, carrying it around the body and into the brain. Where might the aluminum come from? Anti-perspirants, food colorings, some baking powder, and the largest single exposure is through vaccinations.

But glyphosate does even worse things than carry aluminum around your body. It binds up iron, which can lead to chronic anemia, as well as binding up cobalt (needed for vitamin B12), molybdenum (needed to process alcohol, sulfur and to digest fats), copper (needed for blood vessel health) and other elements. The health implications of this are quite profound, and point to many links with chronic diseases that are prevalent in society today.

There is a growing movement to raise awareness about the dangers of Round Up and its presence in our food supply. Those concerned about Round Up toxicity can now have their levels tested. Contact Immersion Health at 503-719-4806 or email info@immersionhealthpdx.com to learn more.

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