



Weather

Morning
26°C

Afternoon
28°C

£50,000 FANTASY LEAGUE



Sign up here for Britain's biggest FREE fantasy football game with £50,000 to be won...[more](#)

[Skip over navigation](#)

« Back to home

Main sections

- [Health](#)
- [Diet & fitness](#)
- [Women & family](#)
- [Health email](#)
- [Webchats](#)
- [Message boards](#)

Partners

- [Mail online bingo](#)
- [Diet centre](#)
- [Mail wine club](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Money shop](#)
- [DVD rental](#)



Special reports

- [Breast Cancer](#)
- [The Smoking Debate](#)
- [Tackling obesity](#)
- [Binge drinking](#)
- [Coping with asthma](#)
- [Dealing with stress](#)
- [Shape up](#)
- [Meningitis](#)

Health tools

- [Breast Checker](#)
- [Pregnancy Guide](#)
- [Six week workout](#)
- [Ovulation Calendar](#)
- [Health calculator](#)

Galleries

- [Smoothies](#)
- [Back remedies](#)
- [Best chocolate](#)
- [All health galleries](#)

Quizzes

- [Cleanaholic?](#)
- [Self-confidence?](#)
- [Real foodie fan?](#)
- [All health quizzes](#)

Advertorials

- [ING Direct](#)
- [Tax credits](#)
- [Discover Britain](#)
- [Isle of Wight](#)
- [Whiskas Oh so...](#)

Ads by Google

Testing Laboratory

Air - Water - Soil - Materials
Environmental-Forens Quality
[www.emsl.com](#)

Conservation Articles

The New York Times is a valuable resource for students and faculty.
[www.nytimes.com/college](#)

Biodiesel Scandal

Controversial website exposes shocking facts about biodiesel.
[www.biodiesel-maker.com](#)

Conservation Biology

Master of Conservation Biology Study in Australia and New Zealand
[www.conservation.bees.un](#)

RSS feeds

- RSS

HEALTH
- [What is RSS?](#)
 - [All our RSS feeds](#)
 - [Login](#)
 - [Register](#)
 - [Text-based site](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
 - [Contact us](#)
 - [Need help?](#)
 - [Site map](#)
 - [Make us your homepage](#)

VIRTUAL GLOBAL TASKFORCE

Internet safety

Business type

Location

Go

☐ This site ☐ Business directory

Search the Mail online

[Advanced Search](#)

Go

☒ This site ☐ Business directory

11 Sept 2006

[Login »](#) [Register »](#)

Health

Babies in womb exposed to 'gender-bending' chemicals

By EMILY COOK Last updated at 22:58pm on 10th September 2006

[Reader comments \(1\)](#)



Health news

- [Girl killed by cancer was told she had indigestion](#)
- [£60 vaccine to prevent cervical cancer unveiled](#)
- [Chubby toddlers 'don't shed puppy fat'](#)
- [Fish oil study launched to improve GCSE grades](#)
- [Billions of NHS money wasted on 'ineffective' operations](#)
- ['Obesity could be more dangerous than stomach stapling'](#)

Have your say

Are you reluctant to discuss condom size with your partner?

- ☒ Yes
- ☒ No

[More polls »](#)

Boards & chat

What is an MRI scan like?
[Join the debate »](#)

Babies are being exposed to "gender-bending" chemical pesticides before they are even born, disturbing new evidence has showed.

Tests on blood taken from the placentas of pregnant women revealed up to fifteen different types of pesticide, the research found.

Worryingly, the chemicals were found in every single one of the 308 women tested.

The findings will fuel concern about the chemicals, known as hormone disruptors or EDCs - endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

High levels of exposure have been linked to reproductive abnormalities - so-called gender-bending - because they upset the hormonal development of the embryo.

The effects are already being seen in nature where some species of fish and animals with deformed sex organs have been found.

Scientists blame agricultural pesticides and other hazardous chemicals such as those found in flame retardants which have leaked into the environment.

Last year a similar report by WWF-UK and Greenpeace found that babies are being exposed to a whole array of chemicals at the most vulnerable point in their development.

Tests on the blood of 30 newborn babies found the presence of eight different groups of chemicals, ranging from cleaning products to chemicals used to make plastics and non-stick waterproof coatings.

A study led by scientists at the University of Rochester in New York also found that common chemicals found in thousands of household products such as soaps and make-up can harm the development of unborn baby boys.

The results reinforce calls for pregnant women to be especially careful about their diet and for the reduction of chemicals in food production.

The latest findings were made by the Department of Radiology and Physical Medicine at the University of Granada in Spain.

Analysis of the placentas revealed the "presence of seventeen endocrine disruptive organochlorine pesticides" - the so-called gender benders.

Some patients' placentas contained 15 of the 17 pesticides tested for.

Maria Jose Lopez Espinosa, who headed the research, feared that the chemicals could cause health problems for children who suffered exposure in the womb.

She said: "The results are alarming: 100 per cent of these pregnant women had at least one pesticide in their placenta but the average rate amounts to eight different kinds of chemical substances."

She warned, "We do not really know the consequences of exposure to pesticides in children but we can predict that they may have serious effects since this placenta exposure occurs at key moments on the embryo's development."

The modern, chemical-laden environment can be especially harmful to pregnant women. During the gestation period, contaminants which accumulate in fatty tissues, access the unborn child via the blood supply and the placenta.

The Spanish research was carried out at San Cecilio University Hospital among 308 women who had given birth between 2000 and 2002. Tests were performed on 668 samples.

The study also found a higher presence of pesticides in older mothers and those who had a higher Body Mass Index.

Miss Espinosa believed that a healthy lifestyle with plenty of exercise, good food and no smoking would help combat the effect of "inadvertent exposure" to the chemicals.

She added, "It is possible to control pesticide ingestion by means of a proper diet, which should be healthy and balanced, through consumption of food whose chemical content is low.

"Moreover, daily exercise and the avoidance of tobacco, which could also be a source of inadvertent exposure, are very important habits which help to control the presence of pesticides in our bodies".

[Add your comment](#) **Reader comments (1)**

Here's what readers have had to say so far. Why not add your thoughts below?

Procedures for disposal of pesticide containers must change and enforcement of pre-harvest intervals have to be strengthened, to reverse trends of residues in human tissues.

- Dr S Banerji, Mumbai. India

Add your comment

Name: Your email address will not be publishedEmail: Town and country: [Terms and conditions](#)Your comment:

[make text area bigger](#)You have 1000 characters left.

☐ Remember me - this will save you having to type out your name, location and email address when you next leave a comment.

☐ Email me a link to these comments.


This story first appeared in the **Daily Mail**. For more stories like this, buy the Daily Mail every day. Plus, to get the paper delivered to your home [click here](#).

Partner Promotion



Free DVD rental >

Advertising Feature



Why not take time to Discover
Britain >

[Mail to a friend](#) [Print story](#) [Read later](#)

[Top of Page](#) ▲

[©2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd](#) · [Terms & Conditions](#) · [Privacy](#)

[Skip over adverts](#)



Femail

[Diana reassessed - a compelling new series](#)

Sexually rejected by Charles - who she thought might be gay - the Princess desperately sought consolation in a series of affairs, says the Queen's biographer

[Needing IVF made me feel a failure, says Ramsay's wife](#)



The wife of TV chef Gordon Ramsay has revealed that she felt like a 'complete failure' when she had to have fertility treatment to conceive their first child. Tana Ramsay, 31, said that she and her husband tried IVF after she struggled to become pregnant

[Transplant girl recovers with 55-year-old heart](#)



Six years ago the nation was gripped by Sally Slater's remarkable last-gasp survival story. Today she looks like a typical happy-go-lucky schoolgirl on the threshold of her teenage years, but inside Sally beats a 55-year-old heart

TODAY ON SPORT...



- [Cole: Gunners made Henry feel special but I was the invisible man](#)



Suggested searches

- [Cheap calls](#)
- [Credit cards](#)
- [Healthy eating](#)
- [Cosmetic surgery](#)
- [Dating](#)

