



# Weather

Morning 26℃ 🥍

Afternoon 28℃ 🥍

# £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.

1 de 4 11/09/2006 13:29



### RSS feeds



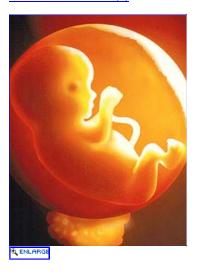
- What is RSS?
- All our RSS feeds
- Login
- Register
- Text-based site
- Accessibility
- Contact us
- Need help?
- Site map
- Make us your homepage



# 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?

- Ves
- ✓ No

More polls »

2 de 4 11/09/2006 13:29

### **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 wil	l not be publishedEmail:	Town and country:	Terms and conditions Your comment:
make text area bigger You h	ave 1000 characters left.			
Remember me - this wil	ll save you having to typ	e out your name, location and email ac	ddress when you next leave a comment.	
Email me a link to these	e comments.			
clear submit comment				

This story first appeared in the Daily Mail every day. Plus, to get the paper delivered to your home click here.



Mail to a friend ⊕ Print story Mead later

Top of Page

©2006 Associated Newspapers Ltd · Terms & Conditions · Privacy Skip over adverts

3 de 4 11/09/2006 13:29



### 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

Looking for your perfect home

#### Suggested searches

Cheap calls
Credit cards
Healthy eating
Cosmetic surgery
Dating





4 de 4 11/09/2006 13:29