GM Foods Are Not Safe

GM foods are not properly tested for human safety. Although human studies are not conducted, adverse findings in animal studies have prompted the American Academy of Environmental Medicine to call for an immediate moratorium on GMOs. They cite problems with reproduction, immunity, digestion, aging, insulin and cholesterol regulation, and organ function. The following is a selection of studies showing health effects.

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<th>Non-GM</th>
<th>GM</th>
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<td>The stomach lining of rats fed GM potatoes showed excessive cell growth, a condition that may lead to cancer. Rats also had damaged organs and immune systems.</td>
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**Gene Transfer:**
For years, regulators and the biotech industry claimed that horizontal transfer of GM genes into human or animal cells, or gut bacteria, would not occur. Research findings challenge this claim.

- GM DNA was detected in the digestive tract of sheep fed GM feed
- GM DNA in feed is taken up by the animal's organs. Small amounts of GM DNA appear in the milk and meat that people eat
- The only human feeding study ever published showed that portions of the Roundup Ready soy transgene transferred into intestinal bacteria and may have continued to function

**The biotech industry claims no one has gotten sick—without supporting data**

Biotech advocates often respond to the safety question by asserting that people have been eating GM foods in the United States for 15 years without ill effects. But GM foods are not labeled in the US and consumers are not monitored for health effects. To identify GMOs as a cause of problems, symptoms would have to be fast-acting, acute, and unique (or unusual). One GM food supplement, L-tryptophan, produced an epidemic of a new disease with these very characteristics, yet it took four years to discover and was almost missed.

Numerous health problems have increased in the US since GMOs were introduced. A report by the US Centers for Disease Control shows that food-related illnesses increased 2- to 10-fold in the years between 1994 (just before GM food was commercialized) and 1999. Multiple chronic illness rates jumped from 7% in 1996 to 13% in 2004. Increases in food allergies, autism, reproductive and gastrointestinal disorders, and auto immune diseases have all been reported. But without post-market surveillance or human feeding studies, any link to GMOs cannot be proved or disproved.
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References: