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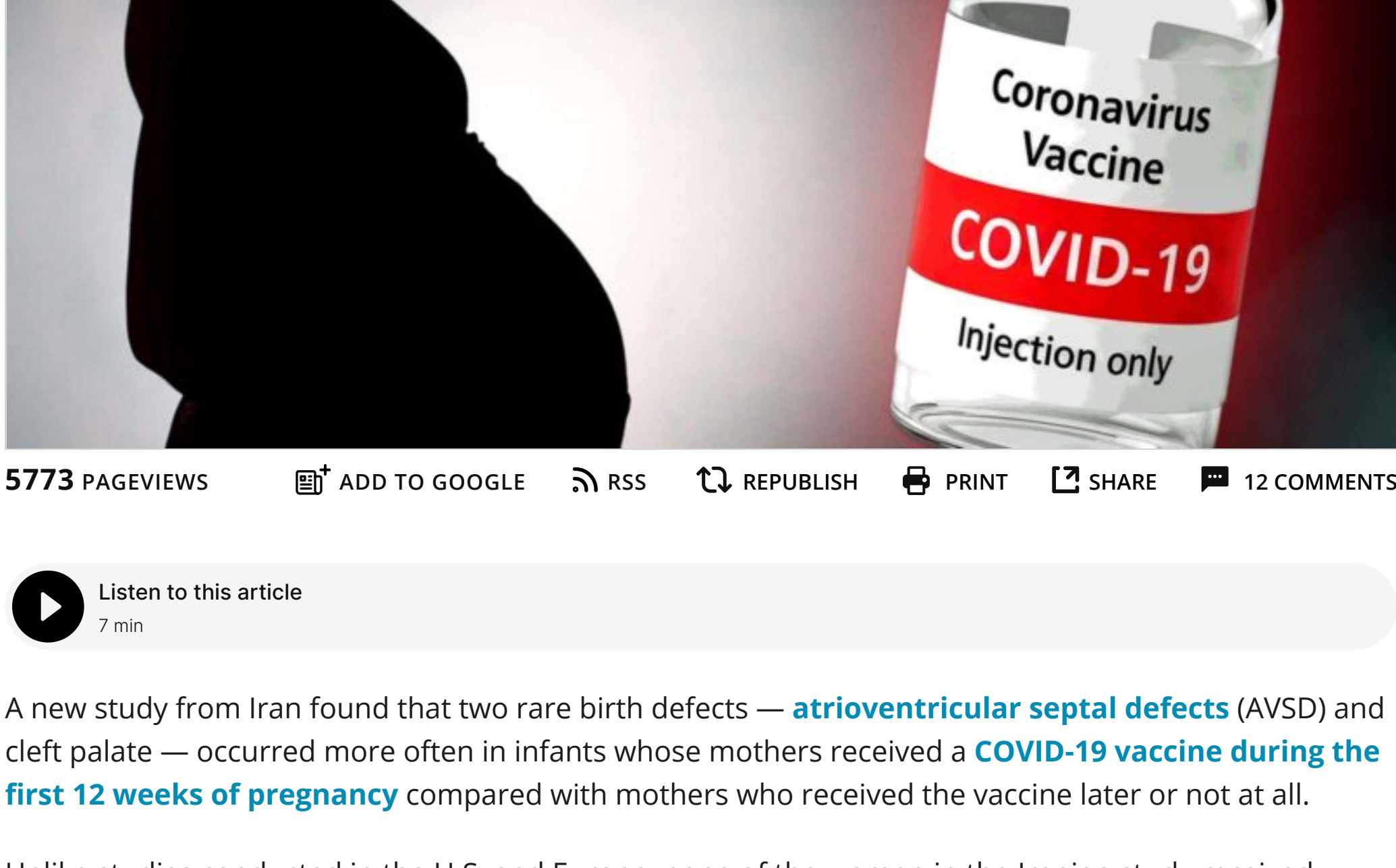
TOXIC EXPOSURES

COVID Vaccine in Early Pregnancy Led to Higher Rates of Two Birth Defects

A new study from Iran found that two rare birth defects — atrioventricular septal defects and cleft palate — occurred more often in infants whose mothers received an aluminum-containing COVID-19 vaccine during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy compared with mothers who received the vaccine later or not at all.

by Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

JULY 10, 2026



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A new study from Iran found that two rare birth defects — atrioventricular septal defects (AVSD) and cleft palate — occurred more often in infants whose mothers received a COVID-19 vaccine during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy compared with mothers who received the vaccine later or not at all.

Unlike studies conducted in the U.S. and Europe, none of the women in the Iranian study received mRNA vaccines — however, all of the COVID-19 vaccines available in Iran contain 0.25-0.50 milligrams of aluminum adjuvant, Children's Health Defense Senior Research Scientist Karl Jablonowski told The Defender.

Shots containing aluminum are not typically recommended for pregnant women in their first trimester, Jablonowski said.

Participants in the new study received either inactivated-virus or viral-vector COVID-19 vaccines. Researchers anonymized the specific vaccine brands "due to ethical and regulatory constraints."

Other Iranian studies indicate that China's Covilo, also known as Sinopharm, is the most commonly administered COVID-19 vaccine in Iran. That shot, Coviran Barkat, and the India-produced Covaxin were available in Iran at the time of the study.

The study, published last month in Sage Open Medicine, analyzed 1,352 pregnancies from two Iranian cities between 2022 and 2023.

Researchers compared three groups: 303 women who received no COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy, 262 women who received at least one dose between conception and 11 weeks, 6 days of gestation — the window when fetal organs form — and 787 women vaccinated after the first trimester.

The authors said they were motivated by a gap in the research: COVID-19 vaccination is widely recommended for pregnant women worldwide, yet few studies have examined the link between early-pregnancy vaccination and birth defects.

"Research assessing whether these vaccines could influence embryonic development is crucial," they wrote.

The authors cautioned that their findings are preliminary, based on small numbers of cases, and do not establish that vaccination caused the birth defects.

Jablonowski agreed that the study can't establish causation but said it offers a starting point.

"It can generate hypotheses, and with this study, we've been handed a really good argument to start generating hypotheses," particularly about vaccines that contain aluminum adjuvants.

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Birth defects rare, but more common among women vaccinated in first trimester

Researchers evaluated birth defects detected during routine prenatal ultrasound examinations performed between 18 and 20 weeks of pregnancy between 2022 and 2023 among women in two major Iranian cities.

Demographic and pregnancy characteristics were relatively balanced across the groups, as were previous COVID-19 infection rates.

Although birth defects were uncommon overall, the researchers found that women vaccinated during the first trimester had babies who had them at higher rates.

Among the findings:

- Six cases of AVSD, a congenital heart defect, occurred in the first trimester, compared with none in the unvaccinated group and one in the group of women who received the vaccine after the first trimester.
- Two cases of cleft palate occurred among women vaccinated before 12 weeks, compared with no cases in either comparison group.

The study did not capture spontaneous abortions occurring before routine ultrasound screening, or pregnancies terminated before anomaly scans, the authors said.

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Authors caution against drawing causal conclusions, but call for further research

The researchers noted that other studies, including a large observational cohort study using data from the U.S. Vaccine Safety Datalink, had found no meaningful increase — 1.02 times the risk — for birth defects among women vaccinated in the first trimester versus those vaccinated later.

Although the Iranian study found statistically significant differences in AVSD and cleft palate rates, the authors repeatedly described their work as exploratory.

"Our descriptive analysis found slightly higher frequencies of atrioventricular septal defects (AVSD) and cleft palate in women vaccinated inside the teratogenic window," they wrote, adding that "given the limited event counts and descriptive design, causal inference cannot be drawn."

Still, they wrote, the results "underscore the importance of continued surveillance and pooled data analyses to investigate rare congenital outcomes." Larger studies with more early-pregnancy exposures are needed to determine whether the differences are real or due to chance, they said.

Jablonowski said the findings raise a narrower question for future research: the effects of aluminum-adjuvanted vaccines specifically in early pregnancy.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the Sinopharm vaccine for pregnant women, even though the agency acknowledged at the time that the data were "insufficient to assess either vaccine efficacy or vaccine-associated risks in pregnancy."

The WHO said the vaccine's inactivated-virus design and common adjuvant meant it was expected to be safe and effective for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and did not recommend pregnancy testing before vaccination.

Jablonowski said it's uncommon in the U.S. and much of the world to give pregnant women aluminum-adjuvanted vaccines in the first trimester.

The Tdap vaccine, which contains an aluminum adjuvant, is not typically given until 27 to 36 weeks of gestation. The flu vaccine is recommended at any point during pregnancy but contains no aluminum.

The only women typically advised to get an aluminum-adjuvanted vaccine in the first trimester are those at risk of hepatitis B — "and even that should give most providers pause," Jablonowski said.

The study's data showed a significant association between aluminum exposure and an increase in septal defects, a subset of AVSD, Jablonowski said, adding that the findings raise questions about administering aluminum-adjuvanted vaccines early in pregnancy that warrant further research.

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candykinser 14 days ago

Thank-goodness that CHD isn't afraid to share the truth - no matter how much Big Pharma and Big Pharma's puppets protest! My own daughter lost her baby at about 5 months after being given the vaccine. Money corrupted those in power!

8 0 Reply Share

memoire perdue 14 days ago

How can you be sure that your daughter lost her baby because of a vaccine?

I know of a case in which a baby boy died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The story was shared several years ago, before the COVID era, by the baby's father, who held a PhD, like the distinguished author of this article.

The baby had been scheduled to receive his first vaccination the day before he died. However, about a week earlier, the parents had called the clinic to postpone the vaccination by two weeks because the father had an urgent work commitment.

I still vividly remember the father's statement: "Had my baby been vaccinated as originally scheduled, I would have been convinced that the vaccine caused his death."

0 1 Reply Share

BarbaraCharis 14 days ago

I learned the hard way about vaccines, I nearly lost my first child to vaccines in the 1950s. I got into the study of health and nutrition, because I discovered the doctor's information was responsible for my sick child. It took many years, before I learned what items were in the vaccines. I wasn't smart enough to ask the doctor what was being injected into my child's bloodstream. If I had been told, I would have rejected them. I knew in high school that formaldehyde was used in embalming. I also knew that mercury caused Mad Hatter's disease, whereby women working in the hat industry went crazy from using mercury to stiffen the brims of hats. After I read Vaccination is NOT Immunization by Dr. Tim O'Shea and saw the items listed I was appalled and horrified. There are many other toxic items, such as, polysorbate80, ethanol, neomycin, simian virus 40, monkey kidney, animal viruses, animal cells, human diploid cells (aborted fetus), carbolic acid, etc. which will damage the internal glands, organs and cells in the body. Doctors who inject items like this into the bloodstream have no knowledge of how the body works and should not have a license to practice medicine. The only thing which belongs in the human bloodstream to produce energy and good health are nutrients from unprocessed organic food, which NOURISHES every gland, organ and cell...additives, dyes, chemicals and pesticides in food (and drugs) are also responsible for harming the human body. Americans were #1 in World health 75 years ago, today they are in 47th Place in World Health, because of our government's promotion of money-making industries, instead of the health of the American people.

6 0 Reply Share

candykinser 14 days ago

Barbara thank-you for sharing your knowledge! I wish everyone was so aware!

4 0 Reply Share

BarbaraCharis 14 days ago

My sick child was responsible for getting me into the study of HEALTH...The only MEDICINE I believe in, is what Hippocrates, the Father of medicine taught. "Let Food be Your Medicine; and Medicine be Your Food." I would not be alive and healthy at 92, if I had not done my own research. Good health stems from one's own efforts...Just as Hippocrates prescribed and he was known for HIS CURES. He prescribed natural (unprocessed) food, exercise, fresh air, sunshine, change of venue and the avoidance of toxins. He would never have advocated the use of drugs or vaccines. Good health is a Do-it-Yourself daily project.

4 0 Reply Share

September2025 11 days ago

My parents met at Rancho La Puerta in the 50's. The owners of this 4000 acre organic health ranch were instrumental in directing my parents to never allow anyone to give me and my siblings vaccines. I have had ZERO shots my entire life. When schools 'required' them, my parents submitted religious exemptions. I am so grateful they were informed before they moved back to the states. Read their story to understand how they came to their way of thinking. And pass it on if you feel it is helpful. Have a good day.

https://rancholapuerta.com/legacy-mission/founders-story/

0 0 Reply Share

memoire perdue 8 days ago

You probably have no idea what it's like to have school-aged children attending a school where vaccination isn't mandatory while caring for your elderly parents at home!

0 0 Reply Share

September2025 11 days ago

"I wasn't smart enough to ask the doctor what was being injected into my child's bloodstream." Restated: "I wasn't smart enough to realize that my doctor had Pfizer's Swell being in mind, not me or my child's." You aren't alone. Millions have trusted those who didn't deserve it. We have got to stop giving drug pushers carte blanche permission to use our children's as pharma's unpaid lab rats.

1 0 Reply Share

Alan Sterry 13 days ago

Do our doctors know what's in the vaccines they inject? In my opinion they haven't got a clue. I'm sure that if you had have asked back in the 1950's they wouldn't have known how to answer you. I was born in 1949 and so had very few vaccines compared to today. You say later that you're 92. A massive 'congratulations' to you and much respect. I haven't had any 'vaccination' for so long I can't even remember the last one! It's my guess that you are doing the same but whatever you're doing it's working wonders.

1 0 Reply Share

BarbaraCharis 13 days ago

Hippocrates was a brilliant physician. I did a newsletter re: Hippocrates 11-2-2025 entitled The Art of Healing at barbaracharis.substack.com He wrote that exercise was equally as important as food. All my life I have been into exercise and got into nutrition 65 years ago...My health got worse at first, because I did not know that the Food Industry did the research that was being taught at the time. The high protein diet was recommended...and I followed it. Within two years, I became fat and lethargic...and both my little son and I had all kinds of colds and sore throats. We both had our tonsils removed at the same time. It took me about 12 years, before I came across valid information that worked. Today, I primarily eat as much raw food as possible, because cooking food wipes out most of its nutrient-value...and I avoid processed food. I exercise daily...90 minutes covering 4-1/2 miles. Hippocrates information should have been taught in med school...He was known for HIS CURES.

1 0 Reply Share

DLT88 14 days ago

Of course. It's NOT even a vaccine. It's a killer shot filled with nanoparticles, heavy metals, etc.

4 0 Reply Share

Alan Sterry 13 days ago

If nano particle neurotoxic Aluminum can cause birth defects when injected into a mother, just imagine what might happen if we were stupid enough to inject it directly into a baby. Oh, hang on a minute

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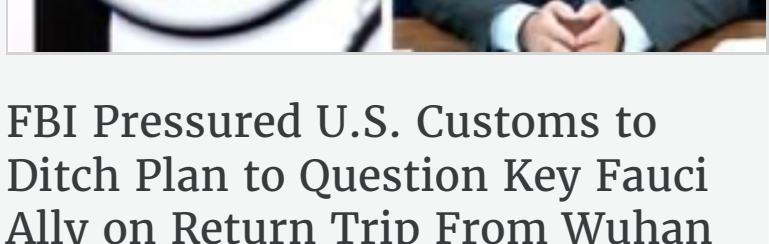
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