

Women of Color Act Up



CALL TO ACTION TO STOP QUINACRINE STERILIZATIONS!

I. Quinacrine Sterilization: advertised and used to sterilize women in Florida! Take action to stop QS use in the United States!

Dr. Randall B. Whitney, M.D., of Family Planning, Inc., a private clinic in Daytona Beach, currently advertises and offers quinacrine sterilizations. (See www.drwhitney.com for more information).

Dr. Michael Benjamin, M.D., of Benjamin Surgical Services International in Ft. Lauderdale plans to offer quinacrine sterilizations in his practice as soon as a pharmacy can compound the drug. (See www.drbenjamin.com for more information). An October 4, 1998 Miami Herald article reported that Dr. Michael Benjamin views QS as “a practical answer to one of the world’s biggest problems—overpopulation,” and that he would provide it free to low-income women. In his email communication with reproductive rights advocates from Hampshire College, he commented on whom he would target for quinacrine sterilization: “Bear in mind that we are not talking about Susie Smith in Suburbia under the care of Jack Jones MD,” he writes. “We’re talking about women with burgeoning families, little food, little money, little health care, possible AIDs, and no reliable contraception.”

As abortion providers, Drs. Whitney and Benjamin both offer a valuable service in their communities. However, as providers they must be held accountable to the standards of bioethics, which would preclude the use and intention to target low-income women for quinacrine sterilization, particularly as the drug has not yet proven safe for the purpose of sterilization.

SEND A LETTER OF CONCERN TO:

1. Emma R. Singleton, District Director, Florida District Office of the FDA,
555 Winderly Place, Suite 200, Maitland, FL 32751

2. Larry McPherson, Board Director, Florida Board of Medicine, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, BIN #C03, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1753

SAMPLE TEXT:

I strongly urge you to promptly investigate and stop the premature use of quinacrine sterilization (QS) in Florida. My concerns about the safety of QS, and the controversy surrounding its past use and high abuse potential have led me to question any further development of QS, let alone current use in clinical settings. It is highly inappropriate and perhaps illegal for providers to advertise or offer quinacrine sterilizations before its approval by the FDA.

SEND A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO:

CWPE, P.O. Box 16178, Baltimore, MD 21218, or to info@cwpe.org

II. Add your name to the Quinacrine Alert Network's mailing list to receive timely 'action alerts' from CWPE and allies.

To add your name, email the Quinacrine Alert Network at quinacrine_alert-subscribe@egroups.com.

To post a message, write to quinacrine_alert@egroups.com.

III. Educate yourself and others about Quinacrine Sterilization.

Find out more information on the CWPE website,
http://www.cwpe.org/issues/health_html/contraceptives/index.html

Check out the following articles:

CWPE can provide any or all of these publications free of charge. Please send your requests to info@cwpe.org.

"*A Risky Business?*" by Betsy Hartman and Nalini Visvanathan. Boston Globe [OpEd], August 3, 1997.

"*Putting an Ear to the Ground: Where Now with Quinacrine?*" by R.N. Pine and A.E. Pollack. International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics, 69 (2000).

"*Quinacrine Non-Surgical Sterilisation: Troubling Questions.*" Shree Mulay. Issues in Medical Ethics, VIII (3), July-September 2000.

"*Quinacrine Sterilisation: Unethical Trials,*" by Shree Mulay. Economic and Political Weekly, April 26, 1997.

"*The Quinacrine Controversy One Year On,*" by Marge Berer. Reproductive Health Matters, No. 4., November 1994.

"*The Quinacrine Controversy*" by Anne Hendrixson and Rajani Bhatia. The Network News, May/June 1999. (Published by the National Women's Health Network, Washington, DC)

"*Two Americans Export Chemical Sterilization to the Third World,*" by Alix M. Freedman. The Wall Street Journal, June 18, 1998, A1.

"*Maternal Mortality, Population Control, and the War in Women's Wombs: A Bioethical Analysis of Quinacrine Sterilization,*" by Judith A. M. Scully. Wisconsin International Law Journal. Volume 19, No. 2, 2001.

"*Quinacrine: A Sordid Story of Chemical Sterilization,*" A Saheli Publication. Saheli Women's Resource Centre, New Delhi. July 11, 1997. (Published by the Saheli Women's Resource Centre, Unit Above Shop No. 105-108, Defence Colony Flyover Market (South Side), New Delhi - 110 024, India)

IV. Report any use of quinacrine sterilization in your community to:

CWPE, P.O. Box 16178, Baltimore, MD 21218, or to info@cwpe.org