

Vaccine in Your Salad

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Someday soon, measles immunity may be administered in the form of vegetables, not needles, if Australian researchers' successful experiments with mice prove pertinent to humans, too.

The researchers modified tobacco plants, and then lettuce and rice, with the same viral protein found in the measles booster shots, and fed the juice of these plants to mice. The results demonstrated levels of viral protein in their system similar to levels when booster shots are administered; these viral proteins enable the body to create antibodies against measles. The mice that received the modified plant juice showed significantly greater levels of measles immunity than those fed juice from ordinary plants. They also showed levels of immunity even higher than necessary for humans to guard against measles.

While results in mice don't always translate to the same results in humans, it establishes principles that pave the way for subsequent phases. The Australian researchers will focus on macaques or baboons next. If it is proved that the measles vaccine can be administered in oral form to humans, the implications will be profound, particularly in third world countries.

Measles is highly contagious, killing 800,000 people per year, including a high population of African infants. An oral vaccine, in the form of any number of plants, wouldn't require highly trained medical personnel to deliver or the use of refrigeration - both in very short supply in third world nations. What's more, the modified plant containing the vaccine could be grown locally. This means vastly lower costs and much wider availability of the vaccine - and significantly less death from the disease.

Vaccines against other diseases are similarly being tested in plants elsewhere. Clinical trials with humans are underway, for instance, with a potato vaccine booster used in combination with injections against hepatitis B. But while the potential for such edible vaccines is immense, so are the potential hurdles: obtaining approval for such genetically modified crops will require many dexterous leaps, as will establishing agricultural and dosing guidelines.

[Nature Science Update](#) 22 July 2002

DR. MERCOLA'S COMMENT:

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This could be a good development for many in that it may help to drive the costs of vaccines down and, more importantly, diminish the side effects from the vaccine. Many of the vaccine's side effects are indeed a result of the preservatives and other garbage that is in there.

However, this is the same technology that has allowed the StarLink corn to run rampantly [out of control](#). Vegetable vaccines may actually cause widespread catastrophes should there be any problems with the vaccines and it contaminates the country's food crops.

My conclusion?

This is one genie that should be left in its bottle.