



DES Action USA
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Serving the DES-exposed community since 1978

December 13, 2011

Susan G. Komen for the Cure
5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 250
Dallas, TX 75244

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider classification of “in utero exposure to the drug, diethylstilbestrol” (DES) in your risk factor lists. It is found in these two places:

- **Factors Under Study**
- **Factors with inconsistent results or insufficient evidence** For these factors, there are few studies to date or results are very mixed. More research is needed to comment on any potential link to breast cancer.

On October 6, 2011 the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) published an article by researchers from the National Cancer Institute that outlines adverse health effects for DES Daughters - with one being an increased risk for breast cancer after the age of forty. The abstract is enclosed but I urge you to read the complete article.

Also enclosed is a syndicated review of the NEJM article written by Marilynn Marchione of The Associated Press. This piece ran in newspapers around the country.

Given this new information from respected researchers published in a highly regarded journal, I hope you take another look at your risk factor lists. Moving DES exposure into a category where it more appropriately belongs seems prudent. Helping the more than two million DES Daughters in the United States be more aware of their increased cancer risk after age 40 could make them more vigilant about having breast screenings and will no doubt save lives.

Thank you for your consideration of this important health matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fran Howell".

Fran Howell, Executive Director
DES Action USA

Enclosures