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This “controversial” study on mRNA vaccines and cancer has now been published after 16 rejections

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A new publication in the scientific journal *Oncotarget* has reignited the debate about the safety of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Toxicologist and molecular biologist **Janci Lindsay** and her co-authors describe a possible link between mRNA vaccinations and the occurrence of certain forms of blood cancer. In parallel, the authors published a second paper in which they explain that their research had been hampered for years by systematic censorship within the scientific publishing industry.

The study, titled " *Exploring the potential link between mRNA COVID-19 vaccinations and cancer,"* is structured as a case report combined with a literature review. It focuses on the case

of a young, previously healthy woman who developed acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and lymphoblastic lymphoma (LBL) after receiving her second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

The authors cite existing scientific literature indicating that the modified mRNA material, packaged in so-called lipid nanoparticles, can distribute itself more widely in the body than originally assumed. According to this literature, it could also reach bone marrow and other blood-forming organs.

In their analysis, Lindsay and her colleagues discuss several biological mechanisms that could potentially be involved in oncological processes. These include disruptions in immune regulation, T-cell suppression, alterations in the interferon response, inhibition of apoptosis (programmed cell death), and increased production of TGF-β, a growth factor associated with aggressive tumor development. Furthermore, the authors point to reports of plasmid DNA contamination in mRNA vaccines, including sequences of the SV40 promoter, which is used in the manufacturing process.

According to the authors, these findings deserve special attention because mRNA vaccines not only act as classic vaccines but also exhibit properties of gene therapy products. In this context, they refer to existing guidelines from, among others, the FDA and the EMA, which address theoretical risks such as DNA integration and genotoxicity.

In their conclusions, Lindsay and her co-authors advocate for more extensive research to better understand the potential long-term consequences of mRNA technology. This is particularly necessary given the rapid expansion of mRNA platforms to other vaccines and medical applications.

At least as remarkable as the content of the study is its path to publication. In a second paper entitled " *Censorship in Science,"* the authors describe a publication history they themselves call extraordinary and worrying. Between 2024 and 2025, the manuscript was submitted to sixteen journals and rejected by just as many—often without any substantive review. Only three journals actually forwarded the manuscript to peer reviewers.

The study was accepted twice by the journal *Current Proteomics* following a peer-review process, but was withdrawn each time before publication. This was not due to new scientific objections, but rather because of the conclusions, which were deemed "controversial." As a result, Lindsay resigned from the journal's editorial board.

The central criticism the authors received from various editorial boards was that mRNA vaccines could not cause cancer because they do not penetrate the cell nucleus and do not integrate into the human genome. According to the authors, this argument is too simplistic, as cancer development is a complex process in which, among other things, chronic inflammation also plays a role.

Lindsay and her colleagues emphasize that open scientific discourse is indispensable. The systematic exclusion of dissenting hypotheses leads to a distorted picture of scientific consensus and prevents potential risks from being identified early on.

The publication in *Oncotarget* thus marks not the end, but rather the beginning of a broader debate – not only about possible long-term consequences of mRNA technology, but also

about how science deals with uncertainty, controversies and dissenting voices in times of social and political pressure.

Quelle: Exploring the potential link between mRNA COVID-19 vaccinations and cancer: A case report with a review of haematopoietic malignancies with insights into pathogenic mechanisms