

The below paragraphs are quoted from the book *Questioning Chemotherapy*, by Ralph Moss, Ph.D., Equinox Press, (July 1995)

From the chapter entitled, "Toxicity of Chemotherapy," p. 67.

An oncology nurse's manual warns that cytotoxic agents pose a "significant risk" of damage to the skin, reproductive abnormalities, hematologic problems, and of liver and chromosomal lesions (232). And this is just to the health care workers preparing the drugs!

Nurses are instructed to protect themselves with long-sleeved gowns, face shields or goggles and latex surgical gloves, which should be changed every half hour. Unused drugs must be put in an impervious container labeled: "Caution: Biohazard." Nurses should also keep at the ready shoe covers; extra pairs of high-grade, extra-thick latex gloves; a disposable dustpan; plastic-lined towels; desiccant powder; disposable sponges; and a puncture-proof, leak proof container.

They are instructed to never eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics in the drug-preparation area. With all this, they are warned that systemic absorption can occur when least expected. "You can accidentally inhale a drug while opening a vial, clipping a needle, expelling air from a syringe, or discarding excess drug that splashes," they are cautioned (232). Chemotherapy is serious business, indeed.