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## Harmful chemicals reported in J&J baby shampoo

Rupali Gupta · Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011



Johnson and Johnson is a well known name in baby products and in fact many consumer prefer J&J baby products for their infants and children. The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, a coalition of health and environmental groups, has been urging the world's largest health care company for 2 1/2 years to remove the trace amounts of potentially cancer-causing chemicals — dioxane and quaternium-15 that

releases formaldehyde, from Johnson's Baby shampoo, one of its prize products.

Johnson & Johnson has been claiming that they are eliminating these chemicals progressively, did not respond to the Group's demands.

Now the group is urging consumers to boycott Johnson & Johnson baby products until the company commits to remove the chemicals from its baby products sold around the world.

Lisa Archer, director of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics said, "Johnson & Johnson

clearly can make safer baby shampoo in all the markets around the world, but it's not doing it. It's clearly a double standard, something they can easily fix."



Woodruff, a researcher on health effects of chemicals, said there is evidence that formaldehyde is associated with nose, lung and blood cancers such as leukemia. She said an infant's scalp is more permeable than an adult's, so exposure to the chemicals could cause more harm for babies than adults.

As per confirmed reports, one of the suspect chemicals, quaternium-15, is a preservative that kills bacteria by releasing formaldehyde. Formaldehyde, used as a disinfectant and embalming fluid, has already been declared a known human carcinogen by the U.S. National Toxicology Program. Formaldehyde also is a skin, eye and respiratory irritant

The second chemical, 1.4-dioxane, is considered a likely carcinogen. It's a byproduct of a process for making chemicals more soluble and gentler on the skin.

Woodruff said, "You're exposing a child during a very vulnerable period of development, when the effect may be worse."

I am surprised that J&J has taken no action with respect to the toxic compounds present in its baby shampoo. Contact your pediatrics regarding use of J&J baby shampoo and be safe.

Healthy Parenting!

## Via

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