

November 25, 1994

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
2400 JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA. 02203

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Attached please find a National Lupron Victim's Network flier - a simple piece of paper which has further altered the changed lives of a very large group of women who used the drug Lupron. Before the grassroots organization of the National Lupron Victim's Network, each of us had assumed that the multitude of serious ailments and inability to obtain diagnosis or treatment (regardless of insurance) was 'just' a frightening and frustrating enigma. However, now that this fledgling network has coalesced into HUNDREDS of women (and men) ... all experiencing similar health problems AND similar treatment problems - we believe this to be a most serious situation and one which compels appropriate attention.

Women have developed serious and debilitating medical conditions following Lupron use; multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer), seizure disorders, autonomic nervous system dysfunction, GI problems, to name just a few. These women, scattered throughout the country, present a troublesome picture. Many women report that their symptoms (frequently bone pain) are being ignored by their physicians. There are many other women who report that their medical condition has been diagnosed by their physician - but any relationship to the use of Lupron is denied.

The fact that the very symptoms, conditions, complaints, or diagnoses of these women are cited as side effects and adverse events of Lupron by Abbott in the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR) is significant. In these hundreds of women's cases, the physician has either failed to acknowledge or failed to correlate the symptom and/or condition to Lupron use - therefore it could only follow that these women's symptoms, conditions, and complaints are not being reported to the FDA. I believe it would not be a misstatement to say that the National Lupron Victim's Network is receiving a volume of complaints about Lupron that far exceeds the numbers which the FDA is receiving and/or reporting.

There is something quite awry when '60 Minutes' and 'NOW' will not or can not ask a reproductive endocrinologist "Why are you giving a Category X drug to women in a fertility cycle?". According to Abbott and the PDR, "Lupron causes fetal abnormalities in one sixth hundredth the human dose, **barrier contraception should be used while taking Lupron, Lupron should not be used on any woman who is or who may become pregnant**", etc. Yet - **the unapproved use of Lupron for fertility treatment has become standard procedure (while fertility clinics proclaim "safe and effective hormonal medicines")**.

The pervasive and exponential use of this drug means we ARE the faces you see in any crowd. Yet, there are many Lupron victims that will never again participate in a crowd because of their

debilitation. We need acknowledgment, medical care, and a voice.

The above statements merely hint at this matter, and there are other profound issues related to this drug that need attention and exposure. I, along with Linda Abend D.D.S, founder of the National Lupron Victims Network, would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest possible convenience to discuss the elements of our concern. If you or your office could please arrange such a meeting, there would be many, many women who would be very, very grateful.

Sincerely,

Lynne Millican, R.N.

cc. National Lupron Victim's Network
Linda Abend, D.D.S.