

## Soft drink additive damages DNA: report

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### CLASS ACTION

The singularly profit driven Corporations have lied and lied regarding food additives, tobacco and climate changing pollutants. They only respond to VERY LARGE financial disincentives. A drive to sign up whole populations for a class action against these polluters is a great start for future mental and physical health.

This action may also reveal the combination of additives in foods and the water supply that impairs the human will. Never before in human history have entire populations become so subservient, helpless and passive in the most alarming circumstances. The apathy and complacency witnessed today in the face of horrendous illegal wars, pollution induced climate change/GLOBAL warming, to name the two most catastrophic events, is beyond comprehension.

Hit them hard and hit them in the pocket, the "class" of the action should include the entire population -- you and your children have been poisoned!



A common preservative found in many soft drinks can cause serious cell damage and fatal illness, according to a UK study revealed last night.

Research indicates that sodium benzoate, an ingredient in many soft drinks and sauces, has the ability to deactivate parts of DNA and eventually cause diseases such as Parkinson's and cirrhosis of the liver.

Sodium benzoate is indicated in Australia as "Preservative (211)" on ingredients lists, and is included in Sunkist, Diet Coke, Sprite, Pepsi Max, and many other drinks and condiments.

Peter Piper, a professor of molecular biology and biotechnology who has been studying sodium benzoate for eight years at Sheffield University, found that the preservative seriously damages living cells.

"These chemicals have the ability to cause severe damage to DNA in the mitochondria to the point that they totally inactivate it: they knock it out altogether," Prof Piper told The Independent on Sunday.

The findings came from laboratory tests conducted with sodium benzoate on living yeast cells. Prof Piper was alarmed by the chemical's destructive impact on the "power station" of the cells known as the mitochondria.

"The mitochondria consumes the oxygen to give you energy and if you damage it — as happens in a number of diseased states — then the cell starts to malfunction very seriously," Prof Piper continued.

"There is a whole array of diseases that are now being tied to damage to this DNA — Parkinson's and quite a lot of neuro-degenerative diseases, but above all the whole process of ageing."

Sodium benzoate occurs in small amounts naturally in berries, but is used in large quantities to prevent mould in soft drinks.

The additive has been the subject of controversy for some time. Last year it was revealed that a chemical reaction between sodium benzoate and vitamin C creates benzene, a carcinogenic chemical.

"The food industry will say these compounds have been tested and they are complete safe," Prof Piper said. "By the criteria of modern safety testing, the safety tests were inadequate. Like all things, safety testing moves forward and you can conduct a much more rigorous safety test than you could 50 years ago."

He advised parents to think twice about letting their children drink products containing the chemical.

"My concern is for children who are drinking large amounts," he said.

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