

Poisonous Prescriptions

Do Antibiotics Cause Asthma and Diabetes?

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Scientist blames asthma on drugs

ANTIBIOTICS might cause asthma and insulin-dependant diabetes, a scientist has claimed.

Dr Lisa Landymore-Lim, a British chemist who has specialised in immunology and biomedical chemistry, also claims in her book, *Poisonous Prescriptions*, that some antibiotics are toxic to the ears and can cause hearing loss.

Dr Landymore-Lim came to Australia because of our high asthma.

She says more research is needed and has challenged institutes to compare the antibiotic use of child asthmatics, diabetics and their mothers with that of non-asthmatic and non-diabetic peers.

Dr Landymore-Lim believes they may cause the diseases in susceptible people.

A study she did in 1991 on diabe-

By HELEN CARTER,
medical reporter

tic children found 50 per cent of the children had been induced as babies and their mothers had had a certain drug during childbirth.

She said babies' and children's immune systems were immature and their kidneys took longer to excrete chemicals.

"If they have sufficient exposures as a child it could bring on juvenile diabetes," she claimed.

"I believe antibiotics damage the lungs.

"Australians have the highest rate of asthma in the world and take twice as many antibiotics as the Brits, Swedes and the Americans.

"The WA Health Department says there is no doubt the medical profession accepts that exposure to antibiotics during manufacture

can cause asthma," she said.

National Asthma Campaign spokesman, Monash University medical lecturer Dr Michael Abramson said he thought it was extremely unlikely.

He said people who were occupationally exposed to powder antibiotics which were inhaled — such as doctors, nurses and manufacturers — could become allergic to antibiotics and some could develop asthma.

But most patients took antibiotics in capsule or syrup form so they were not inhaled.

"She is putting forward a hypothesis but most medicos would be sceptical although perhaps studies should be done," he said.

Dr LANDYMORE-LIM will speak at 8 tonight at the Mervyn Himbury Theological Studies Centre, 50 The Avenue, Parkville.

Dr. Lisa Landymore-Lim