

# LAETRILE WARNING

**LAETRILE IS WORTHLESS**

**LAETRILE IS DANGEROUS**

**LAETRILE MAY BE  
CONTAMINATED**

**GET THE FACTS**

Cancer patients and their families are warned that:

Whether sold as a drug (amygdalin) or as a "vitamin" (B-17), Laetrile is worthless in the prevention, treatment or cure of cancer. The substance has no therapeutic or nutritional value.

Laetrile can be fatal for cancer patients who delay or give up regular medical treatment and take Laetrile instead.

Laetrile contains cyanide and can cause poisoning and death when taken by mouth. One infant is known dead of cyanide poisoning after swallowing fewer than five Laetrile tablets. At least 16 other deaths have been documented from ingestion of Laetrile ingredients (apricot and similar fruit pits).

Laetrile is especially hazardous if the injection form is taken by mouth. This can cause sudden death.

Laetrile is not routinely subject to FDA inspection for quality and purity as are all other drugs.

Analysis has shown some Laetrile to contain toxic contaminants. Ampules of Laetrile for injection have been found with mold and other adulterants which can be dangerous when injected.

Those who persist in the use of Laetrile or its ingredients should:

- Be prepared to deal promptly with *acute* cyanide poisoning if the oral product is used. Vigorous medical treatment must be started immediately or death can result.
- Watch for early symptoms of *chronic* cyanide poisoning, including weakness in the arms and legs and disorders of the nervous system.
- Keep the drug out of reach of children.

For full details about the hazards of Laetrile, see your family physician or a cancer specialist, or write the Food and Drug Administration, HFG-20, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.



**Donald Kennedy**  
Commissioner of Food and Drugs