Fact Finder

A team at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health summarizes the best evidence.

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A new website, Cancer FactFinder (cancerfactfinder.org) separates fact from fiction when it comes to cancer prevention. A team at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health summarizes the best evidence. Examples:

Claim: Pilots and flight attendants have increased cancer risk.

Bottom line: Flight crew are at increased risk for both skin and breast cancers. There are guidelines aimed at reducing their radiation exposure.

Claim: Birth control pills (oral contraceptives) cause cancer.

Bottom line: Oral contraceptives slightly increase the risk for breast and cervical cancer, yet decrease the risk for endometrial, ovarian and colorectal cancers. Talk with your doctor to find the best contraception for you.

Claim: Induced abortion causes breast cancer.

Bottom line: Neither induced (medical) nor spontaneous abortions appear to increase breast cancer risk.

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