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## Johnson & Johnson Has a Long Rap Sheet — Why Should We Trust Its Vaccine?

*Johnson & Johnson has never made a vaccine, but since entering the pharmaceutical market in 1959, the company has made a lot of headlines — and been fined billions — for bad behavior.*

20					



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By Richard Gale and Gary Null Ph.D.

For decades, according to an [October 2019 article](#) in The Guardian, “consumers worldwide have named the \$347 billion pharmaceutical behemoth [Johnson & Johnson \(J&J\)](#) as one of its most trusted brands.”

From its humble beginnings in the 1880s, making cotton gauze dressings and eventually band aids, baby powder and shampoo, J&J has expanded into one of the most powerful multinational pharmaceutical and medical device companies in the world.

In 1959, J&J entered the world of [Big Pharma](#) as a leading player after succeeding in getting Tylenol approved as an over-the-counter drug. Shortly thereafter, J&J commenced with a flurry of acquisitions to increase its product line, which included Neutrogena, Cordis, DePuy, Janssen Pharmaceutica and Centocor.

Today, in most American home medicine cabinets one will find a popular J&J product: Listerine, Tylenol and Benadryl, Neutrogena skin cream, Rogaine, Neosporin antibacterial ointment or Destin to treat diaper rashes.

Now people are eager for J&J’s “one shot and you’re done” [COVID-19 vaccine](#) despite health officials’ fears it may be less effective than [Moderna’s](#) and [Pfizer’s](#) mRNA competitors.

Vaccination centers and pharmacies are racing to get their hands on the new [adenovirus](#)-based vaccine. And as we will further note below, this is from a company that has absolutely no past experience in vaccine development and manufacturing.

We need to seriously challenge J&J’s reputation. A [2019 report](#) by the British intelligence firm [Alva](#) has noted that J&J’s reputation has sunk dramatically during the past years, from ninth place among 58 major pharmaceutical firms to 57th place. Certainly, this is not a company with a clean ethical record.

A review of J&J’s rap sheet over the past three decades presents a dire and contrary image that should lead us to question the company’s claims about its COVID-19 vaccine given the lucrative market the pandemic has created for the most aggressive medical corporations.

Similar to its equally over-sized competitors Glaxo, [Merck](#) and Pfizer, J&J too has had to pay out billions of dollars over the decades for civil settlements and criminal activities. As the pharmaceutical giant [receives applause](#) across the mainstream media for the release and [Emergency Use Authorization](#) for its COVID-19 vaccine, Brazil’s Public Prosecution Service started an [investigation](#) into J&J’s antitrust activities under the [Foreign Corrupt Practices Act](#) (FCPA) for “possible improper payments in its medical device industry.”

This was part of a 2019 Federal Bureau of Investigation bribery scheme [investigation](#) that included Siemens, General Electric and Philips acting as a larger cartel to illegally pay off government officials in return for securing contracts with Brazil’s national health programs. The charges also included price gouging and inflating prices up to 800 percent above market price to cover bribes.

This is not the first time J&J has violated FCPA laws. In 2011, J&J was charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with conspiracy for paying off Greek doctors to advance its product sales. The Securities and Exchange Commission also charged civil complaints.

The company had to pay out a [\\$70 million penalty](#) for buying off officials in Greece, Poland and Romania. In 2010, an executive for J&J’s subsidiary DePuy was sentenced to a year in prison for corrupt payments to physicians within the Greek national healthcare system.

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As one of the world's leading medical device companies, J&J has had its share of recalls for faulty products, including contact lenses and hip implants. In 2013, the drugmaker paid nearly \$2.5 billion to compensate 8,000 recipients for its [flawed hip implants](#). Again in 2016, another [\\$1 billion was awarded](#) to plaintiffs injured from this device.

One particular dubious activity the company became involved with in 2008 was to launch a “phantom recall.” When its Motrin IB caplets were [discovered](#) to not properly dissolve, J&J hired outside contractors to buy up store supplies in order to avoid making public declaration. No one would have known of this activity and it would have gotten past the eyes of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors had the deception not [been exposed](#) during a Congressional investigation.

### Other major J&J lawsuits and recalls for faulty products include:

- 1995: \$7.5 million fine for [destroying documents](#) to cover up an investigation into wrongful marketing of its Retin-A acne cream to remove wrinkles.
- 1996: An undisclosed settlement on [false claims](#) over condom protection claims to protect against HIV and other STDs.
- 2001: Paid out \$860 million in a [class action lawsuit](#) for misleading customers about prematurely discarding its 1-Day Acuvue soft contact lens. J&J recommended they should be worn only once, although it was discovered the lenses were no different than the regular Acuvue lens that would last for two weeks.
- 2010: \$81 million settlement for [misbranding](#) its anti-epileptic drug Topamax to treat psychiatric disorders and hiring outside physicians to join its sales force to promote the drug for unapproved conditions. The following year, J&J paid [\\$85 million](#) for similar charges against its heart drug Natrecor.
- 2011: Several J&J baby products were [discovered](#) to contain carcinogenic ingredients.
- 2013: The U.S. Justice Department [charged](#) the company \$2.2 billion in criminal fines for marketing its autism and anti-psychotic drug Risperdal for unapproved uses. Forty-five states had filed civil lawsuits against J&J in the scandal. Janssen also had an aggressive campaign to market Risperdal for use in children with behavioral challenges. Other serious adverse effects from Risperdal [reported](#) by the FDA include diabetes mellitus, hyperprolactinaemia, somnolence, depression, anxiety, psychotic behavior, suicide and death.

The company's legal problems over Risperdal do not appear to have ended. In October 2019, a Philadelphia jury [awarded](#) a man \$8 billion in punitive damages for failing to warn that the drug could cause young men to grow breasts. Other recent suits include litigation over its blood thinner Xarelto risks of internal bleeding, and a [\\$775 million settlement](#) to 25,000 plaintiffs.

- 2016: Two women were awarded \$127 million in damages for the talc in its J&J Baby Powder causing ovarian cancer. Later, more than 1,000 similar cases came forward. During the trial it was discovered that J&J suspected a link between talcum and ovarian cancer back in the 1970s. A Missouri verdict fined the company over \$4 billion but it was later reduced to \$2.1 billion. A New York Times [investigation](#) into internal J&J memos uncovered evidence that the talcum powder may have contained asbestos. These cases continue. In July 2019, J&J made efforts to dismiss [14,000 lawsuits](#) over the talcum-cancer risk.

More recently, J&J has been in the spotlight for its role in [contributing](#) to the deadly opioid crisis. The company holds the patent for a unique strain of opium poppy commonly named Norman. It is the leading provider of the opioid for [Purdue Pharma's](#) painkiller OxyContin. An Oklahoma court [ordered a \\$465 million fine](#). This opened the door for other states to follow suit.

To fully grasp how insane the system is, the just-under-half-a-billion civil fine was considered good news on Wall Street, which anticipated the verdict would be in the billions of dollars. Consequently, J&J's [stock rose](#) 2 percent after the judge's ruling. And despite J&J being Purdue's major supplier, and a major contributor in the U.S. opioid epidemic, Purdue was forced to file for bankruptcy due to mounting lawsuits for overdose deaths.

Finally, we might ask why a 140-year-old company, with no history in vaccine development, has now become a hero in the immunological war against COVID-19?

J&J is not a household name in the vaccine industry. It is utterly absent, let alone ranks among the world's 20 major vaccine makers. Among the 53 vaccines for other infections [listed by the CDC](#) as approved for use in the U.S., not one is manufactured by the nation's leader in mouthwash and baby powder.

It is therefore no surprise that the company had to partner with Merck to manufacture its COVID vaccine to meet demand — has no history or expertise in this medical field.

The COVID pandemic is a cash cow for the drug industry's taking. Bernstein market analyst Ronny Gal [predicts](#) COVID-19 vaccine sales will reach \$40 billion this year. A more realistic figure is likely higher as together, Moderna and Pfizer project their revenues at \$32 billion.

Then there are the other major vaccines by [AstraZeneca](#), J&J and [Novavax](#) entering the competition. According to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's vaccine [research tracker](#), more than 200 vaccines against COVID-19 are in development worldwide.

Finally, there is a disturbing question for which we have no clear answer: How is it that a drug and household health product company, with no prior history in vaccine development, can develop and rush to market its first vaccine against a viral strain that was only identified 14 months ago?

Developing a vaccine requires many years and necessitates the establishment of an R&D infrastructure vastly different than the structure required for conventional drug development.

If J&J's long rap sheet offers any warning, it is that we must be wary of any claims the company makes about the efficacy and safety of its products. *Originally published on [Progressive Radio Network](#).*

*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Children's Health Defense.*

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**Kalen** • 5 months ago

All big Pharma are convicted felons. But what is this world we live in. World run by greedy, thugs, lowlifes, murderers and convicted felons like current ECB chief Lagarde or yet unconvicted for murder felons like Gates.

17 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Lady Sane** • 5 months ago

So many people are misinformed on the Johnson & Johnson

So many people are misinformed on the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine, thinking it the 'safe' alternative to new mRNA technology Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccinations. This is hardly the case:

Johnson & Johnson: Adenovirus Technology, Ethical Concerns:

<https://www.unite4truth.com...>

Johnson & Johnson is being touted as a 'safer, more well known' alternative to mRNA vaccination however, Adenovirus technology has never been approved for human use outside military application and it is currently only approved for a Rabies vaccination for wild animals.

<https://childrenshealthdefe...>

"Adenovirus vaccines have a lengthy history of use in the U.S. military, but the FDA's emergency green light for J&J's COVID injection represents the first time the agency has authorized an

[see more](#)

13 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Mary Nelson** → Lady Sane • 5 months ago

Fortunately for me, NO vaccine is coming into my life or my body.

I will use something like Ivermectin instead.

Does the FDA push that fact???? Check it out online.

9 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**PolitiJim** → Lady Sane • 5 months ago

Thank you. I haven't seen Robert, Sayer, Judy or Andrew address the tech behind J&J yet - was wondering why..

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**MarkTwain2020** • 5 months ago

A very informative and accessible article. A company can't just hire a few vaccinologists and jump on board the Covid gravy train. This whole Covid crisis just reeks of crony capitalism and [bloated government contracting agreements](#).

12 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Ry** • 5 months ago

Covid crippling economies and still manages to be vector of profit for big business. Can you smell the agenda?

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**NoTreading** → Ry • 5 months ago

Yea, smells like fascism.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Sentinel** • 5 months ago

And why would anyone create vaccines to produce antibodies when they know it will be too late to keep up with mutations? And when they know that when antibodies present, it's to clear out the dead virus left over from your killer T cells?

Jesus said, I am the physician. At the beginning of the creation, Jesus was with the Father who provided the herbs and fruit.

The Lord is up in heaven laughing at man who is trying futilely to out do God.

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kim from Brooklyn** → Sentinel • 5 months ago

That seems to be on point with what I am getting too. Our natural, innate, wonderful bodies ability to fight off virus and build immunity seems to be going into the trash can. These vaccines and those that are to follow, are going to wreck havoc on the immune system and it will then not be able to fight off even the slightest virus, etc. that comes our way. People will now be subject to serious injury if they come into contact with even the slightest bug....then they will say its because the virus is mutating and another jab will be required, until everyone is going once a week for a new jab (because they think it is going to save them).

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Nancy Murdoch** • 5 months ago

Guess they are trying to recoup some of that money they have lost. It's difficult to comprehend how a company could lose that much money and still be in business. Perhaps jail for its chief executives would be more in line, in addition to the money. Otherwise, why will they ever change their cheating ways?

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Leslie** → Nancy Murdoch • 5 months ago

They don't loose money, that's just collateral damage, like war! They reaped in billions, if not a trillion? and still are, just from Oxycontin alone, think how many of those pills (alone) they sell world wide, and they are probably the dealers that put them on the street, so they are making billions on legal drug pushing and God know's how much they make on the streets selling their drugs! It doesn't just medically appear on

Johnson & Johnson Has a Long Rap Sheet — Why Should We Trust Its Vaccine? • Children's Health Defense  
streets selling their drugs! it doesn't just magically appear on the streets!

Largest U.S. drug companies flooded country with 76 billion

...

<https://www.washingtonpost.....>

Jul. 16, 2019 — America's largest drug companies saturated the country with 76 billion oxycodone and hydrocodone pain pills from 2006 through 2012 as the nation's deadliest drug epidemic spun out of control, according to previously undisclosed company data released as part of the largest civil action in U.S. history.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Kim from Brooklyn** • 5 months ago

All I can say is big pharma needed to make big money so they created a pandemic. Then they pulled out of bag tests that are useless and millions based their lives on the results; only to be followed by a vaccine that does not protect you from getting sick, transferring disease or offer immunity for the long haul. It offers nothing only a false sense of safety so (we can get back to normal). If they think normal is on the other side of these vaccines, they once again have succeeded at convincing millions to do something that will bring them loads of cash and create disease to us so they can then find yet another reason to take another one of their drugs! And the rat race goes round and round and round in circles chasing their tails wondering, why??????

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Britasticx7** • 5 months ago

Well written article. Thanks for sharing.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**kris** • 5 months ago

well that red johnson & johnson logo looks like it was inked in our blood!

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Chelsea Yorkshire** • 5 months ago

We're beginning to think that all these specialists, big pharma, ALL of them are still years away from truly understanding the hugely complex system found in humans and ALL of our animal life.

Twenty five years from now, we're going to look back at this Pandemic & all the vaccines created. We'll shake our heads in sorrow and dismay how the Western World's medical systems were light-years away from creating a safe vaccine.



If we are STILL learning about brain activity and a hundred other unique characteristics of humans, animals. Imagine how stupefying all these mad scientists and Monolithic Health Institutes will look 25-30 years hence.

2 ^ | v 1 • Reply • Share ›



**Judy** → Chelsea Yorkshire • 5 months ago

I disagree. They aren't light years away from understanding the complex system found in humans and animals. They know only too well. They are exploiting it to their advantage, knowing how things will turn out, and also explains why they employ so many behavioural scientists. They work on people to exploit their fears and trap them into thinking they are all philanthropists, the people in these organisations. In 25-30 years hence, the genetically modified will not be aware, or to quote Klaus Schwab " you will be happy about it".

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Tiktok** • 5 months ago

Thanks for that most welcoming piece of information. That was a nice long criminal rap sheet of Johnson & Johnson. Now, what about Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca? Your on a role. Keep up the good work, buddy. Ha-ha.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**happyle** • 4 months ago

Though I appreciate all the good that Pres Trump tried to do for this country he allowed the Dems to control the Covid narrative - that they wouldn't open their economies unless a vaccination was found for covid so he helped green light untested vaccines. I am mad that the Dems stole the election but I do not think Trump is the answer to 2024. Perhaps wise and shrewd and gutsy Desantis.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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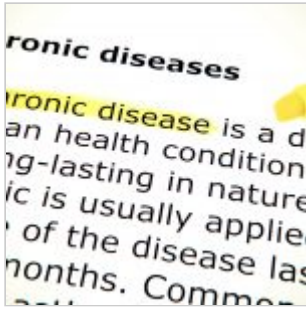


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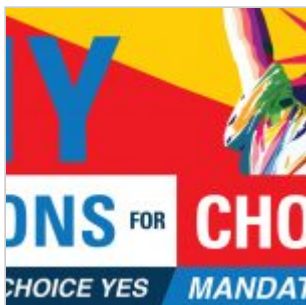


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