



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY - 8/13/2007

August is National Immunization Awareness Month.

HOW DID THE TERM “*IMMUNIZATION*” ORIGINATE?

Encarta Definition: “A method of stimulating resistance in the human body to specific diseases using microorganisms— bacteria or viruses—that have been modified or killed.” Syn: vaccination.

Online Etymology: “Immunity: 1382, "exempt from service or obligation," from Latin *imunitatem* "exemption from performing public service or charge," from *immunis* "exempt, free," from *in - "not" + numnis* "performing services." Medical sense "protection from disease" is 1879 from French or German.”

In 1774 British dairy farmer Benjamin Jestey noticed that his two dairymaids (Ann and Mary), who previously had cowpox, did not become infected with smallpox. Jestey correctly guessed that by inoculating his wife and children with cowpox, it would make them immune to smallpox. This is the first known case of immunization.

Dr. Edward Jenner (1749-1823) is recognized as the first doctor to give sophisticated immunization for smallpox in 1796. The process spread quickly, and the use of cowpox immunization has led to the almost total eradication of smallpox in modern human society.

Conventional Wisdom: Immunization = Preventive Medicine

Moment of Zen: An ounce of prevention is worth trying