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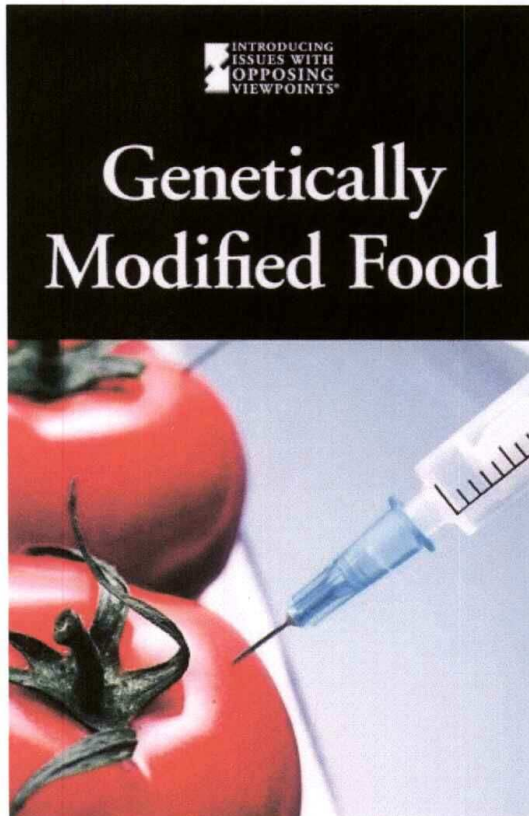
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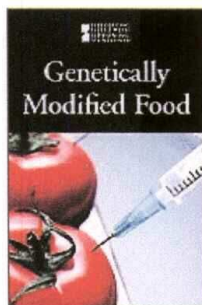
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by Jennifer L. Skancke



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Viewpoint

3

## Genetically Modified Food Can Cause Disease

Giuseppe Nacci

*“[Genetically modified food] may make it completely impossible to cure tumors and other diseases.”*

In the following viewpoint Giuseppe Nacci argues that eating genetically modified food may cause disease in humans. Nacci explains that the human body is a complex system that depends on particular vitamins, proteins, and chemicals to function and remain healthy. Many diseases, especially cancer, result from a lack of vitamins or the poisoning of the body's systems by toxins. Given this, Nacci claims that eating genetically modified food elevates the risk of disease because it introduces people to foreign, toxic substances that alter their sensitive biochemical systems. These substances can inhibit the body's ability to fight disease, or in some cases, cause DNA mutations that trigger new diseases. In order to protect humans from an increased risk of disease, Nacci concludes that genetically modified food should not be a part of the human diet.

Nacci is an Italian physician.

Giuseppe Nacci, "The Threat of Genetically Modified Organisms (part I)," *Gerson Healing Newsletter*, vol. 21, May–June 2006, pp. 5–8. Copyright © 2006 The Gerson Institute. Reproduced by permission.

**AS YOU READ, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. According to Nacci, where do a majority of the genes used in genetically engineered foods come from?
2. What effect might genetically modified vitamin molecules have on vegetable crops, according to the author?
3. What effect does Nacci say genetically modified foods have on the treatment of cancer?

**C**ancer is a degenerative disease caused by a lack of vitamins and poisoning from chemical substances present in food. One can estimate the number of vitamins and pro-vitamin substances present in natural plants commonly used as food by humans, as more than 15,000 to 30,000. The introduction into modern agriculture of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) is an unjustified and dangerous alteration of what evolution has produced in plants over hundreds of millions of years: plants on which the subsequent biochemical evolution of superior complex animal organisms has been based, culminating with the advent of mammals in the last 65 million years and then with the arrival of man. The delicate biochemical balance of the human race depends on plant species remaining integral, just as evolution created them, because the health of every one of us is based on the biochemical human cell, and this depends, through the complexity of the DNA, on the use of thousands of vitamins and of the herbal-chemical compounds present in nature.

**Genetically Modified Foods Alter  
Human Biochemistry**

To get maximum agricultural production today we resort to changing the genetic patrimony of natural plants, with the aim of changing their structure and making them sterile (thus farmers have to buy new seeds every year), patenting the transformation induced and reselling the product all over the world. It has been stated that there is a substantial equivalence between the genetically modified product (GMO) and that obtained by selecting genetic characteristics (that is by means of naturally crossbreeding plants as has been done by man over the course of thousands of years). However the idea of