

# The beginning of rationed health care

In what is likely a precursor to having the government more involved in the nation's healthcare, some pencil-necked geeks in an office somewhere have pored over statistics prepared by other pencil-necked geeks and produced studies that say women should not worry about their health as much as they've been encouraged to all their lives.

Odds are also that these "analysts" are lonely, single men with no family. No wife. No girlfriend. No mother. No daughter. No sister. No niece. No aunt. No female cousin. Just them and their solitude.

With days of each other, results of studies that concluded women should not begin to have mammograms at such an early age nor as frequently and should not have pap smears at such an early age were released. Coincidentally, a nationalized healthcare bill was about to make it onto the floor of the U.S. Senate.

The significance of these studies, too often dime a dozen studies by groups with a vested interest in the outcome, is that they will be used in the future to minimize coverage of these exams that have saved women's lives.

Next, perhaps, will be a study that concludes prostate exams for men under 75 are unwise and unnecessary. And that children only need vaccinations after they're stricken with a disease.

In the case of initiating mammograms at age 50 instead of age 40 as has been recommended for the past several years, the "government panel of doctors and scientists" concluded that such tests "often leads to too many false alarms and unneeded biopsies without substantially improving women's odds of survival."

A different study could likely show that the errors were physician error - that biopsies weren't necessary but are easy revenue producers and false alarms were on the part of radiologists who could not or did not accurately read the mammograms.

Here's what an accomplished physician and academician had to say: "I have seen the benefits of early detections and screening in my own experience with a significant amount of cancers being prevented in women in the 40-49 age group."

This Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Science at Hackensack University Medical Center and Adjunct Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York University School of Medicine, went on: "I have also seen young patients die of breast cancer so it was very surprising to me that this federally appointed panel came out with the recommendation that women start getting mammograms at age 50 and then every two years after that without even considering the impact

it could have on preventive medicine. So far, the only thing I can conclude from their statements is that they're playing a numbers game ..." And, "Saving someone from cancer should not be a numbers game, but unfortunately, this seems to be the trend coming to America."

Some believe the panel used statistics from European countries to support their conclusion. But, that's comparing apples and oranges. Americans live a much more unhealthy lifestyle than do those in places such as Sweden.

When the panel said there were "too many false alarms," what did they mean? What did the false alarms lead to? Worry and fear or unnecessary surgeries? How many is "too many?" If one of those they considered in the too many led to early detection and treatment and survival, what is that worth? Probably not much to members of the government funded panel but a helluva lot to families of cancer survivors.

The panel must have taken their poor advice further. The doctor referenced also said, "Finally, I really want to express my discontent with the advice being given to younger women not to bother doing self exams." He pointed out that they cost nothing and can lead to early detection.

The ObamaCare Plan is unlikely to pass. But, if hundreds of millions of dollars are

used to bribe reluctant Democrats as was done with Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), it just could. Money talks, ...

If nationalized medicine is imposed, studies like the one in this story can be, and likely will be, used to refuse payment for tests that are in conflict with these conclusions.

Those who scoffed at Sarah Palin's characterization of "Death Panels" should take heed. There have always been groups like this one that make, or direct, treatment protocols based on nothing more than paper shuffling.

Who will argue with insurance providers when they refuse payment based on the results of this so-called "study"?

Obviously, this study isn't perfect. If it even claimed to be, it could have established an age other than 50. Fifty is just a nice round number, easier for everyone to remember. It could have worked out to 48 or 51 had it been done exactly.

Even leading Democrats are running from this study. Richard Durbin (D-IL) said, "I think they got it wrong." Women are a huge constituency for the Dems - these bogus studies don't win many friends.

Instead of offering disclaimers to the study's accuracy, the POTUS and Dems should disavow it now. Forcefully.

## Susan Boyle

From the moment she marched to the microphone on *Britain's Got Talent* in April of this year, the life of Susan Boyle has become one of legend.

The initial reaction by the three judges and studio audience was typical. A dowdy woman, somewhat overweight and poorly dressed, offered no glimpse into how she would be viewed just minutes later.

A 47 year-old woman who had led an isolated life caring for her elderly mother, her singing experience in public was very limited. Obviously, there was an audition process and somebody involved with the show knew her talent. But, there was nothing about her that suggested she would become one of the world's best-known and familiar celebrities over the next few months.

Her first worldwide exposure was at the quarter-finals of *Britain's Got Talent*. From her first notes to her final ones, the audience was on its feet, cheering. Two of the three judges also joined in the standing ovation. At the end, she started to walk off stage without being judged. Her arms stiffly swinging by her side, unsteady on her heels, she was beckoned back to center stage to hear the accolades of the judges. Two apologized for how they and the audience had reacted to Susan Boyle when she spoke before she sang. Contempt. Ridicule. Scorn. Derision. Eye brows rising when she said she hoped to become a professional singer, as famous as England's Elaine Paige. Asked why it hadn't

happened for her, she did not use the excuse that she had cared for her dying mum. She just said she'd never had the chance. Nor the confidence, probably.

When she sang, "I Dreamed a Dream" from *Le Miserables*, everyone who saw that appearance knew Susan Boyle's days of anonymity were behind her. Although more than twice the age of most newly discovered talents, she has gotten the world's attention. She could not be ignored. Even though she did not win the finals of that show, she would become its only notable contestant.

Her new CD, "I Dreamed a Dream," has become the most pre-ordered CD in the history of Amazon.com. Its issue date was November 23 and it likely will rise up some musical genre chart very quickly.

In six months, this woman [no thin woman with a thin voice] has amazed the world with her voice, was hospitalized from exhaustion from the sudden fame and traveled to the U.S. to perform. With her first royalty check, she will buy her childhood home - a nondescript, modest home that fits her and her cat, Pebbles.

On her new album, she offers not only the title song but a powerful cover of the Rolling Stones "Wild Horses," and her first recorded song, "Cry Me a River," which was for a charity compilation CD in 1999.

She has said, "I have spent my life proving to people that I wasn't worthless." Far from it, Susan Boyle. Far from it.

# DREAMS

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