**Benzene in Sunscreen: The Reasons for the Rhyme**

**Learning Objectives:**

1. DISCUSS benzene and its associated safety risks
2. EXPLAIN the role of independent pharmaceutical testing companies and the FDA’s responsibility to recall contaminated products
3. DESCRIBE the pharmacy team’s role in helping patients navigate product contamination reports

**1. Which of the following does long-term benzene exposure increase the risk of?**

A. Melanoma

B. Leukemia

C. Headaches

**2. What is a safe level of benzene in sunscreen products?**

A. 2 parts per million

B. 27% concentration

C. There is no safe level

**3. Valisure detected benzene in 27% of the sunscreens they tested. They petitioned to the FDA to recall these products, but the FDA did not immediately recall them. Which of the following is TRUE?**

A. Valisure should allow the FDA to initiate an investigation and recall if appropriate

B. Valisure should mandate that manufacturers recall affected products

C. Valisure should take court action against the FDA for not recalling the products

**4. A patient comes to your pharmacy stating that she has been using Neutrogena Cool Dry Sport aerosol sunscreen all summer on herself and her children, and she heard it was contaminated and could cause cancer. She is afraid to try another sunscreen since it could contain the same contaminant. What should you advise this patient to do?**

A. Stop using all sunscreen products, as they increase cancer risk

B. Seek medical attention for benzene poisoning immediately

C. Consult the Valisure report to find a safer sunscreen alternative

**5. A patient comes to your pharmacy asking about the sunscreen contamination report. He is a long-time user of Aveeno sunscreen, but not the aerosol. He would really prefer not to switch sunscreen if he doesn’t need to. What is your best recommendation for this patient?**

A. Stop using the product immediately, as all Aveeno sunscreens were recalled

B. Submit a sample of his Aveeno sunscreen to Valisure for testing

C. Keep using the Aveeno, but monitor for signs of benzene poisoning