

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should I shun genetically modified food?



Dr. Heather Auld
Physicians' Primary
Care

This is a hotbed of controversy fueled by lobbyists on one side and environmentalists on the other.

Genetically modified crops, or GMOs, have been banned in many countries but not the United States. Much research remains to be done. One of the biggest concerns is "Roundup Ready" crops, which have been genetically modified to live after weed killer is applied.

These crops contain herbicides, which cannot be washed away and are therefore consumed by humans and livestock. Animal studies have implicated GMOs to neurobe-

havioral problems in children and genetic modification in adults. Long-term effects need to be scientifically studied. However, it may be wise to apply the precautionary principle here. It states that when there may be a potential threat to our health or environment, it is safest to take precautionary measures.

— Dr. Heather Auld, Fellow at the University of Arizona Department of Integrative Medicine, is an obstetrician/gynecologist with Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida in the Park Royal office, 9021 Park Royal Drive, Fort Myers. Call 432-5858.