

# NOTHING COMPARES TO FORMALDEHYDE

## SAVING LIVES

### VACCINES

Formaldehyde is an **essential ingredient in vaccines**. It is used to help inactivate viruses to ensure vaccines are safe to use<sup>[1]</sup>.

Formaldehyde is a vital component in vaccines to prevent diseases such as **polio, influenza, meningococcal, hepatitis A & B, and others**<sup>[2]</sup>.



**Formaldehyde** has helped the **polio vaccine** save **18,000,000** people from **paralysis**<sup>[3]</sup>.

### DIAGNOSIS

A formaldehyde-based solution '**formalin**' is used in medicines to improve the diagnosis of diseases such as cancer and guide oncological treatment decisions. It does this by preserving biopsies to allow for a thorough medical examination<sup>[4]</sup>.

In January 2019, the **French Government agency ANSES**, published a draft report which looked at possible alternatives to formaldehyde for this purpose. It concluded "**no substitution product matches all ... technical criteria identified by ANSES experts**" *(non-official translation)*<sup>[5]</sup>.

#### References:

- 1 – University of Oxford Vaccine Knowledge Project 'Vaccine Ingredients'
- 2 – Children's Hospital of Philadelphia 'Vaccine Ingredients – Formaldehyde'
- 3 – World Health Organisation. 'Poliomyelitis'
- 4 – Cancer.org 'What happens to biopsy and cytology specimens?'
- 5 – ANSES 'Etudes des alternatives potentielles au formaldéhyde en anatomie et cytologie pathologiques humaines'