

What We Want

Awareness: Training for all healthcare professionals about DES.

Accountability: A statutory public inquiry and government answers.

Screening: Lifelong, targeted screening for those at risk.

Compensation: Recognition and support for stolen lives and ongoing trauma.

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DES Justice UK



DES Daughters Sons Support Group



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DES Justice UK

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Contact us



DESJustice@broudiejacksoncanter.co.uk



0330 822 7554

Broudie
Jackson
Canter

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The Silent Scandal



**Please give a voice to those harmed
by DES**

Diethylstilbestrol (DES) was a synthetic hormone, prescribed to an estimated **300,000 women** in the UK from the 1940s to the early 1980s.



Marketed as a “wonder drug” to prevent miscarriage and promote healthy babies, it was also given to stop breast milk production.

DES was created by a government scientist using public funds, never patented, and manufactured by hundreds of companies. Despite early evidence of harm, it continued to be prescribed without proper oversight, leading to one of the UK’s worst pharmaceutical scandals.

The Impact – Real Lives, Real Harm

DES Mothers:

- Increased risk of breast cancer, lifelong guilt, and trauma.

DES Daughters:

- 40x higher risk of clear-cell adenocarcinoma (a rare vaginal/cervical cancer)
- 8x higher risk of neonatal death
- 4.7x higher risk of pre-term delivery
- 3.8x higher risk of second-trimester pregnancy loss
- 3.7x higher risk of ectopic pregnancy
- 2.4x higher risk of stillbirth, infertility, and early menopause
- 2.3x higher risk of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia
- 1.8x higher risk of breast cancer
- 1.6x higher risk of first trimester miscarriage
- 1.4x higher risk of preeclampsia

DES Sons:

- Limited studies suggest increased risk of genital abnormalities and infertility.

Testimonies

“I was diagnosed with a rare cancer at 17, after years of suffering. I believe this drug is solely responsible for a series of illnesses, mentally and physically, which I have had to endure throughout my entire life.”

- DES Daughter -



My mother was prescribed DES during pregnancy. She died at 55 after a long battle with cancer. My sister and I have suffered lifelong health issues as a result.

- DES Family Member -



Why Is This a Scandal?

The government never monitored DES’s safety or usage.

No legal recourse for victims due to lack of patent and poor record-keeping.

The UK lags behind other countries in recognising and addressing DES harm. Most GPs and gynaecologists are unaware of DES and its effects.