Grounds to Give Up Coffee? : Health: Research links the brew to cancer, stress and, most recently, heart attacks. But other studies show that it has positive effects on the mind and body.

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In the New York offices of the National Coffee Assn., officials last week weighed the latest bombshell against their industry with the kind of calm resignation that results from frequent attacks.

Asked about a new study showing that heavy coffee consumption can boost the risk of heart attacks, George Boecklin, the association's president, said he preferred to keep his silence until a panel of scientific experts reviews the study for the association. "We'd rather not go off half-cooked," he said with a sigh.

Since the early '60s, the association—which represents Folgers, Maxwell House and other coffee makers—has weathered repeated studies reporting negative health effects of America's beloved wake-up beverage.

LIFESTYLE

One In 10 Adults Think Coffee Causes Cancer

By SHARON BEGLEY @shbege
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Coffee isn't likely to give you cancer after all, the World Health Organization's cancer agency announced on Wednesday, and might even be protective, WHO sources say. For years coffee makers have been battling reports that it is a cancer risk. Here's what we know.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which advises the WHO, met Tuesday to discuss whether coffee and other beverages containing caffeine cause cancer. The IARC experts said that "sufficient evidence" exists that using tea and coffee causes liver cancer, and possibly colorectal and stomach cancer. The agency, however, found the evidence for coffee to be "inadequate" for cancer of the bladder.