

THE VACCINE CONTROVERSY (Pt. 1)

By Dr. Derek Conte

Note: This article is not intended to be construed as medical advice but rather as a discussion of a serious matter facing our society today. Parents are obliged to do their own research and become adequately informed to make decisions regarding the health of their children.

The rate of autism in this country is 1 in 150. In 1988, the rate was 1 in 2,500. In 1982, the government recommended 23 doses of 7 different vaccines from birth to 18 years old. Today, with the addition of flu shots, 69 doses of 16 different vaccines are recommended. In stark contrast, Amish populations totaling 100,000 in the US account for only 10 cases of autism. That is a rate of 1 in 10,000. The Amish don't get as many vaccines as we do and are also passionate about taking supplements and eating meats, fruits and vegetables they grow themselves without the use of chemicals or genetic modifications.

On CNN, Dr. Judy Gerberding, director of the CDC, said a mitochondrial disorder present in some children, when combined with a stress like the fever caused by a vaccination could set off a reaction where the mitochondria of the cells would produce too little energy to support normal brain function, resulting in "autism-like symptoms". Later in the interview, she said 15 scientific studies showed no link between vaccines and autism although she had just drawn one for the audience. Research tends to concentrate on genetic rather than toxic causes for autism.



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Atlanta native, Hannah Poling, now 9, received nine vaccines in one day when she was 19 months old and contracted encephalitis. The government has conceded that the vaccines worsened an underlying condition that led to "autism-like symptoms". Hannah's dad is a neurologist and still supports the use of vaccines. 5,000 more cases like this are pending.

In 1980, 15 percent of people got the flu shot. Today, 65 percent of people get flu shots. An AMA study showed that 2 percent of people today who get the flu shots get the flu anyway, while unvaccinated people got the flu only 3 percent of the time. This means that only 1 in 100 benefited from getting the flu shot. Does this level of benefit outweigh the risks?

In Prince George's county, Maryland, 2,300 of 131,000 school children were not fully vaccinated. A letter from the state's attorney threatened the parents with 10 days in jail and a fine of \$50.00 each day the child went unvaccinated. The letter stated that if the children did not receive vaccinations for hepatitis B and chicken pox, the children would be barred from school and held truant until they did.

There is a recipe for great resentment brewing around this issue and coercion will not be the answer. What is needed? More education on the part of the parents, more research on the relationship between vaccines and illness and more effort to build natural immunity.

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