



Vaccination Safety



Vaccines are the safest, most effective way of preventing against disease. More importantly, vaccines are much safer than the diseases they prevent!

Vaccination Concerns. Many parents are concerned that vaccinations are unsafe and possibly even cause illness or disease. Recently, there has been particular concern that autism is linked to a vaccine preservative thimerosal, and to the MMR vaccine.

Background. The controversy that the MMR vaccine causes autism began in 1998 when Dr. Andrew Wakefield published a study proposing there was an association between the two. The study has been questioned and 10 of the original 13 authors have withdrawn their support of the study, stating that there was insufficient data to show a causal link between the vaccine and autism. Since then, several studies have been conducted regarding any connection between the MMR vaccine and autism. No evidence has been found that there is any such link.

Other Findings. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine began looking for a connection between thimerosal (which contains mercury) and autism, but was unable to produce any evidence of such a connection. It is also uncommonly known that thimerosal is no longer used as a preservative in any of the vaccinations routinely given to children. The reason for this is simply because thimerosal, and many other preservatives, is no longer needed.

Safety. Vaccinations are very safe! Years of testing a vaccine are required before it can be offered to the public. Once a vaccination is in public use, it is continually monitored by the CDC and FDA for side effects. The testing and monitoring of vaccines ensures their safety.

Vaccine Side Effects. Although vaccinations are very safe, they do sometimes cause mild reactions such as: soreness or redness where the shot was given, or a low-grade fever. These usually last only a day or two and then go away. There is no scientific evidence that shows vaccines cause any disease or sickness.

For more information, see our Resources page!