VACCINES

Thimerosal & Autism

Thimerosal is a mercury-based preservative that has been used in the U.S. in multi-dose vials of medicines & vaccines. As a precautionary measure, thimerosal was removed from all childhood vaccines by 2001, with the exception of some formulations of multi-dose vials of flu vaccine. Scientific research does not show any link between thimerosal in vaccines & autism. Autism rates have actually increased since thimerosal was removed from childhood vaccines.

Can a baby’s immune system handle all the recommended vaccines?

Some parents are concerned that receiving too many vaccines at such an early age can overwhelm a baby’s immune system. There is no evidence to suggest that the recommended childhood vaccines can “overload” the immune system. In contrast, from the moment babies are born, they are exposed to numerous bacteria & viruses on a daily basis. A single bacterium contains a larger variety & number of antigens (proteins that stimulate the immune system) than are found in all the recommended early childhood vaccines combined. A baby’s immune system, which copes with exposure to countless bacteria each day, can easily withstand exposure to the antigens in vaccines.

Side Effects

Immunizations, like any medication, can cause side effects. In most cases, these side effects are mild reactions such as fever or soreness at the injection site. Very rarely, people experience more serious side effects, like allergic reactions. The CDC & FDA continuously monitor vaccine side effects through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System & the Vaccine Safety Data Link. For more information about VAERS, visit www.vaers.hhs.gov or call 1-800-822-7967.

Did you know?

The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine does not now & never did contain thimerosal.

Who should NOT be vaccinated?

There are cases were vaccinations should be delayed or withheld.

- Children with compromised immune systems, such as cancer patients, often need to wait to be vaccinated.
- If a person has had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine, a following dose may not be recommended.
- A person with a mild, common illness, such as a cold with a low-grade fever, does not have to wait to be vaccinated.
- Please see the following link for more detailed information, and as with all health concerns, please discuss with your doctor.
  http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ypd-vac/should-not-vacc.htm

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