

Title: There is no significant difference in rates of autism in children receiving the MMR vaccine versus those who are not vaccinated

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Abstract: A retrospective cohort study conducted in Denmark studying all the children born in the country between 1991 and 1998 revealed that there was no increased risk of autism in children receiving the MMR vaccine versus those who were not vaccinated. The relative risk of developing autism in those vaccinated for MMR versus the unvaccinated was 0.92, with a 95% confidence interval of 0.68 to 1.24, showing no significant difference.

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WHAT

is autism?

Autism is a complex disorder of developmental disability. It is usually diagnosed by the age of 3 years old. It leads to problems with communication and social interaction. Children often have difficulty playing, making social connections with others, and communicating.

There is no single known cause of autism. Most experts believe it is due to abnormal brain structure or function.

DOES

the MMR vaccine cause autism?

A group of researchers published a paper in *The Lancet*, a British medical journal, in 1998 suggesting a link between MMR vaccine and autism. This paper was based on 12 reports of children who developed bowel symptoms and autism near the time they had the MMR vaccine. No scientific study was performed to prove that a link truly existed.

There has been no scientific proof that the MMR vaccine can cause autism. Many studies show that autism rates are no different in those receiving MMR vaccine versus the unvaccinated. The MMR vaccine is thought to be safe.

The MMR vaccine is recommended for all healthy children.

the
MMR
vaccine

&
autism

WHAT

is the MMR vaccine?

The MMR vaccine protects against **M**easles, **M**umps, and **R**ubella. It is given as two shots. The first shot is between 12 and 15 months of age. The second shot is between 4 and 6 years of age. The second shot is not a booster. It establishes immunity in those who are not immune after the first shot. The vaccine is made of live, attenuated viruses. These viruses will not infect healthy children. They will help children develop immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella.

WHY

should your child get the MMR vaccine?

Measles, mumps, and rubella are now rare illnesses. This is largely due to widespread vaccination programs. However, these diseases can still be serious problems.

Measles causes fever, rash, cough, runny nose and watery eyes. It can also lead to more serious problems, such as pneumonia, brain swelling, and even death.

Mumps causes fever, headache and painful swelling of saliva glands. It can rarely lead to meningitis and brain swelling. Mumps can also cause the testicles of boys or men to swell. Sometimes they are then unable to have children.

Rubella is also called the German measles. It causes fever, rash, and swelling of the glands in the neck. It is most serious if a pregnant woman gets rubella. She may have a baby who is blind, deaf, or has trouble learning. She can also have a miscarriage.

REFERENCES

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