MRR Vaccine Does Not Cause Autism
Examine the evidence!

Scientific evidence confirms that MMR and autism are unrelated. The question about a possible link between MMR vaccine and autism has been extensively reviewed by independent groups of experts in the United States, including the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine (now named the National Academy of Medicine). These reviews have concluded that the epidemiologic evidence shows that MMR vaccine does not cause autism.

Rumors about the safety of MMR vaccine arose in 1998 after a British physician (a gastroenterologist, not trained in vaccine sciences or neurology) claimed he had found virus from measles vaccines lingering in the intestines of 12 autistic children. He believed this accounted for their autism.

Other researchers, however, were never able to replicate these results, implying the gastroenterologist’s conclusions were wrong. Later, an investigation revealed that this doctor had falsified patient data and relied on laboratory reports that he had been warned were incorrect. The journal that originally published his study took the unusual step of retracting it from the scientific literature because it was the product of dishonest and irresponsible research. British authorities revoked the doctor’s license to practice medicine.


The following list of articles published in peer-reviewed journals is provided so that parents and practitioners can themselves compare the balance of evidence about MMR vaccine and autism.

More than 25 articles refute a connection between MMR vaccine and the development of autism

1. Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccination and Autism – A Nationwide Cohort Study. Hviid A et al. Ann Intern Med 2019; 170(8):513–520. This nationwide cohort study included all 657,461 children born 1/1999–12/2010 in Denmark. With this many study participants, the researchers were able to look at vaccinated vs not vaccinated children, including 6,517 children with a diagnosis of autism.

CONCLUSION: The findings strongly support that MMR vaccination does not increase the risk for autism, does not trigger autism in susceptible children, and is not associated with clustering of autism cases after vaccination.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30831578


CONCLUSION: Several epidemiologic studies have not found an association between MMR vaccination and autism, including a study that found that MMR vaccine was not associated with an increased risk of autism even among high-risk children whose older siblings had autism.

LINK: pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30986133/


CONCLUSION: No convincing evidence was found in this study that MMR vaccination and increasing thimerosal dose were associated with an increased risk of ASD onset.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25562790

4. Autism Occurrence by MMR Vaccine Status among US Children with Older Siblings with and without Autism. Jain A et al. JAMA 2015;313(15):1534-40. The objective of this study was to investigate Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) occurrence by MMR vaccine status in a large sample of US children who have older siblings with and without ASD.

CONCLUSION: In this large sample of privately insured children with older siblings, receipt of the MMR vaccine was not associated with increased risk of ASD, regardless of whether older siblings had ASD. These findings indicate no harmful association between MMR vaccine receipt and ASD even among children already at higher risk for ASD.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25898051

available evidence from five cohort studies involving 1,256,407 children and five case-control studies involving 9,920 children.

CONCLUSION: Vaccination is not associated with the development of autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Furthermore, the components of the vaccines (thimerosal or mercury) or multiple vaccines (MMR) are not associated with the development of autism or ASD.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24814559


CONCLUSION: Exposure to the MMR vaccine was unlikely to be associated with autism, asthma, leukemia, hay fever, type 1 diabetes, gait disturbance, Crohn’s disease, demyelinating diseases, bacterial or viral infections.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22336803


CONCLUSION: Evidence favors rejection of five vaccine-adverse event relationships, including MMR vaccine and autism. Overall, the committee concludes that few health problems are caused by or clearly associated with vaccines.


8. Lack of Association Between Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccination and Autism in Children: A Case-Control Study. Mrozek-Budzyn D et al. Pediatr Infect Dis J. 2010;29(5):397-400. The 96 cases with childhood or atypical autism, aged 2 to 15, were included in the study group. Controls consisted of 192 children individually matched to cases by year of birth, sex, and general practitioners.

CONCLUSION: The study provides evidence against the association of autism with either MMR or a single measles vaccine.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19952979


CONCLUSION: No association between measles vaccination and ASD was shown.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18252754


CONCLUSION: This study provides strong evidence against association of autism with persistent MV RNA in the GI tract or MMR exposure.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18769550


CONCLUSION: There is no evidence of measles virus persistence in the peripheral blood mononuclear cells of children with autism spectrum disorder.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17015560


CONCLUSIONS: During the period of MMR usage no significant difference was found in the incidence of regression between MMR-vaccinated children and non-vaccinated children. Among the proportion and incidence of regression across the three MMR program-related periods (before, during and after MMR usage), no significant difference was found between those who had received MMR and those who had not. Moreover, the incidence of regression did not change significantly across the three periods.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16865547


CONCLUSION: The findings ruled out an association between pervasive developmental disorder and either high levels of ethylmercury exposure comparable with those experienced in the United States in the 1990s or 1- or 2-dose measles-mumps-rubella vaccinations.

 LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16818529


CONCLUSION: There was no evidence that onset of autistic symptoms or of regression was related to measles-mumps-rubella vaccination.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16729252


CONCLUSION: Based upon the current literature, it appears that there is no relationship between MMR vaccination and the development of autism.

LINK: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15173555


CONCLUSION: The committee concludes that the body of epidemiological evidence favors rejection of a causal relationship between the MMR vaccine and autism.

LINK: www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=030909237X

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17. **MMR Vaccination and Pervasive Developmental Disorders:**
   **CONCLUSION:** Our findings suggest that MMR vaccination is not associated with an increased risk of pervasive developmental disorders.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** Similar proportions of case and control children were vaccinated by the recommended age or shortly after (i.e., before 18 months) and before the age by which atypical development is usually recognized in children with autism (i.e., 24 months). Vaccination before 36 months was more common among case children than control children, especially among children 3 to 5 years of age, likely reflecting immunization requirements for enrollment in early intervention programs.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** The prevalence of autism, which was apparently rising from 1979 to 1992, reached a plateau from 1992 to 1996 at a rate of some 2.6 per 1000 live births. This levelling off, together with the reducing age at diagnosis, suggests that the earlier recorded rise in prevalence was not a real increase but was likely due to factors such as increased recognition, a greater willingness on the part of educationalists and families to accept the diagnostic label, and better recording systems. The proportion of parents attributing their child’s autism to MMR appears to have increased since August 1997.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** This study provides strong evidence against the hypothesis that MMR vaccination causes autism.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** We did not identify any association between MMR vaccination and encephalitis, aseptic meningitis, or autism.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** No evidence was found that children with autism were more likely than children without autism to have had defined gastrointestinal disorders at any time before their diagnosis of autism.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** These findings provide no support for an MMR associated “new variant” form of autism with developmental regression and bowel problems, and further evidence against involvement of MMR vaccine in the initiation of autism.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** No evidence was found to support a distinct syndrome of MMR-induced autism or of “autistic enterocolitis.” These results add to the recent accumulation of large-scale epidemiologic studies that all failed to support an association between MMR and autism at population level. When combined, the current findings do not argue for changes in current immunization programs and recommendations.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** These data do not suggest an association between MMR immunization among young children and an increase in autism occurrence.

   **CONCLUSIONS:** Because the incidence of autism among 2 to 5 year olds increased markedly among boys born in each year separately from 1988 to 1993 while MMR vaccine coverage was over 95% for successive annual birth cohorts, the data provide evidence that no correlation exists between the prevalence of MMR vaccination and the rapid increase in the risk of autism over time. The explanation for the marked increase in risk of the diagnosis of autism in the past decade remains uncertain.

   **CONCLUSION:** Our analyses do not support a causal association between MMR vaccine and autism. If such an association occurs, it is so rare that it could not be identified in this large regional sample.