

Health

Vaccines did and do cause autism

By Evelyn Pringle

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June 3, 2005—On Feb 9, 2004, the National Autism Association issued a press release that reported on one of the larger studies under review based on the Centers for Disease Control's Vaccine Safety Datalink. Under independent investigation, the Association reported, of the CDC's data children were found to be 27 times more likely to develop autism after exposure to three thimerosal-containing vaccines (TCVs), than those who receive thimerosal-free versions.

Let that sink in. Twenty-seven times more likely to develop autism. Then consider that our government regulatory agencies had this information for years and deliberately kept it hidden from the public. This failure to warn the public was not due to negligence or laziness, it was a deliberate cover-up and it continues today.

How do we know they had it for years? Because the staff of Rep Dan Burton (R-III) obtained an Food and Drug Administration (FDA) internal email written on June 29, 1999, by former FDA scientist Peter Patriarca, that offered a "pros and cons" assessment of the dishonest statement about thimerosal in vaccines that the FDA was about to release, and described the questions that could be raised upon its release:

- (1) FDA was 'asleep at the switch' for decades, by allowing a potentially hazardous compound to remain in many childhood vaccines, and not forcing manufacturers to exclude it from new products.
- (2) Various advisory bodies aggressive recommendations for use.
- (3) The dose of ethyl mercury was not generated by 'rocket science': conversion of the percent of thimerosal to actual ug [micrograms] of mercury involves 9th grade algebra.
- (4) What took the FDA so long to do the calculations?
- (5) Why didn't CDC and the advisory bodies do these calculations while rapidly expanding the childhood immunization schedule?

The FDA knew.

In 1997, Congress passed the FDA Modernization Act, which required the FDA to review all drugs that contained mercury and determine their adverse effects on humans. For many years, thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative, was added to childhood vaccines in multi-dose bottles, basically to increase profits for vaccine makers.

Thimerosal is nearly 50 percent mercury, which is a known to be extremely harmful to fetuses, infants and children. Beginning in 1987 and throughout the 1990s, it became the main source of mercury in infants and toddlers when the number of vaccines added to the national vaccine schedule nearly tripled.

In 2000, the FDA determined that a 12-to-14-month old child, receiving vaccines required under the Immunization Schedule, often received four to six shots during one doctor visit. Consequently over time, the child would be injected with as much as 40 times the amount of mercury considered safe.

The corresponding increase in autism is concrete evidence of the link between autism and vaccines. Twenty years ago, autism only affected one in 10,000 children. The Autism Autoimmunity Project (AAP) reports that the disorder strikes 1 in 150 (or 1 in 68 families) today.

During the 1990s, as some 40 million children were vaccinated, drug company profits soared and there's no doubt that the companies knew about the dangers of thimerosal and put profits over the health of a whole generation of children.

The Los Angeles Times obtained a 1991 internal memo from the drug company Merck that proves the company knew then that thimerosal in vaccines posed a serious health threat. The memo noted that 6-month-old children who received their shots on schedule would get a mercury dose up to 87 times higher than guidelines for the maximum daily consumption of mercury from fish.

As the vaccines increased, autism rates skyrocketed and the numbers don't lie. State by state statistics based on data by the Department of Education, show that the increase in the number of children aged 6–21 with autism between 1992–93 and 2003–04, is astronomical. In Ohio there were 22 cases of autism in 1992–93, and in 2003–04 there were 5,146. In Illinois, there were only 5 cases in 1992–1993, while there were 6,005 in 2003–04. Mississippi had no cases of autism in 1992–1993, but had 622 in 2003–04. Wisconsin had 18 cases in 1992–93 and 3,259 in 2003–04.

In addition to autism, thimerosal has now been linked to a host of developmental disorders, including Attention Deficit Disorder, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and, ironically, the pharmaceutical industry is now making money hand over fist off drugs prescribed to treat children with these disorders.

The drug companies can pay doctors, researchers and reporters to write a million articles and reports that say there is no connection between thimerosal and autism, but that won't change the truth. Thimerosal is the culprit and a million false denials won't change that fact.

Plenty of experts with nothing to gain say so. When asked to what degree of scientific certainty can we prove that the current epidemic of autism was caused by the mercury-based preservative, thimerosal, in childhood vaccines, David Ayoub, MD, said, "I can state that the certainty of the science supporting mercury as a major cause of autism is probably more overpowering than the science behind any other disease process that I studied dating back to medical school."

In May 2003 the AAP stated, "All routinely recommended infant vaccines currently sold in the U.S. are free of thimerosal as a preservative and have been for more than two years." Yet, because the FDA maintained it did not have enough evidence to justify a recall of thimerosal vaccines distributed prior to the introduction of thimerosal-free versions, they were allowed to remain on the market until they became outdated. That means that poisonous vaccines were still administered until November 2002.

"Because the FDA chose not to recall thimerosal-containing vaccines in 1999," the April 2003, House Committee on Government Reform report concludes, "in addition to all of those already injured, 8,000 children a day continued to be placed at risk for overdose for at least an additional two years." Parents need to know that flu vaccines currently recommended for infants and pregnant women still contain thimerosal to this very day.

The CDC and FDA policy decisions about matters such as approving vaccines for inclusion on the immunization schedule are made by physician advisory boards whose members very often have strong financial relationships with the very same pharmaceutical companies that they are supposed to regulate.

For example, during a congressional hearing on potential conflicts of interests at the FDA, it was revealed that 60 percent of the advisory members who voted to approve the poisonous rotavirus vaccine had

financial ties to the drug companies manufacturing the vaccine. The committee also found that 50 percent of the CDC members were tied to the rotavirus makers.

The public needs to rise up and demand accountability from the officials in charge of all regulatory agencies involved in concealing information that could have saved many families from the devastation of these ill-administered vaccines.

Parents are told in order to enroll children in public schools and day care, the children must comply with the mandatory vaccine schedule, which includes vaccines that have not undergone the scientific testing necessary to guarantee their safety, and have the potential to harm millions of children.

If families are expected to trust the government's vaccine approval process, they have a right to demand that the vaccines are approved based on scientific research, without the undue influence of money passed out to politicians, scientists, and the heads of the regulatory agencies, by the pharmaceutical industry.

The children who were affected by this cover-up will require care and support for a lifetime. The lives of many of these children are destroyed. The costs for their care, left to their families, will reportedly exceed \$2 million per child.

The drug companies and the government officials involved in this vaccine marketing scheme and the subsequent cover-up of the damage it caused need to be criminally charged and made to pay for their crimes.

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