

The Poison Post®

National Capital Poison Center eNewsletter

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The Bottom Line: Vaccines Don't Cause Autism



There is no scientific controversy over whether vaccines cause autism: the answer is "no". But many people believe that there is a link; others have heard about the controversy but don't know the bottom line.

Autism is a life-long condition that begins in childhood, typically by age 2. Those with the condition often develop normally. Then, they lose their ability to communicate effectively or have normal social interactions. They also have difficulty processing information, may have intellectual challenges, and exhibit a variety of abnormal behaviors. Many have other physical and mental health conditions, too. There are no proven causes, thus no known prevention measures. Treatment addresses behaviors and co-existing health problems, in an attempt to help these

In This Issue

The Bottom Line: Vaccines Don't Cause Autism

Button Batteries Can Kill Children

Prescription Pain Killers - Test Your Smarts!

When the "Chili" is Too Hot!

Reed Diffusers: Potential Household Risk



Larger Batteries Can Kill Children NEW RESEARCH

Researchers at the National Capital Poison Center report that more and more children are being injured, or even dying, from swallowing button or disk batteries. This is a tragedy that can be prevented.

The majority of severe injuries are from lithium batteries, a little larger than a penny, used to power household items such as remote controls, games and toys, calculators, cameras, computers, shoes, jewelry, thermometers, singing greeting cards, and a variety of other items. Find out how to [prevent these tragedies, and what to do if someone swallows a battery...](#)

children and their families adapt as well as possible to this extremely difficult condition.



The idea that vaccines might somehow play a role began in 1998. A British doctor published a paper in which he stated that a group of previously-normal children developed developmental delays and a gastrointestinal illness soon after being vaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella. Researchers were hopeful; parents were anguished, thinking that they had caused their children to develop this terrible disease.

Other researchers were unable to reproduce these results, an essential step to validate such findings. It was later learned that the doctor had lied. After a long investigation, he lost his license to practice medicine.

Around the same time, it was noticed that the number of children diagnosed with autism and the number of recommended childhood vaccines were both on the increase. Some people thought that thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative in vaccines, might be the cause. It is true that some forms of mercury, in large enough amounts, are poisonous to humans, but there is no evidence that thimerosal causes autism. In fact, thimerosal was removed from vaccines, but autism rates continued to climb. This is



Prescription Pain Killers - Test Your Poison Smarts!

True or False: There has been a significant increase in deaths related to prescription pain medications in recent years. [Get the answer](#) and find out why we're concerned about opioid pain relievers...

When the "Chili" is Too Hot!

What causes the burning sensation when you eat chili peppers?

What should you do if you rub chili



the opposite of what one would expect if thimerosal were responsible for causing autism.

There is still no known way to prevent autism. But it is known that vaccines do not cause autism. Further, it is known that unvaccinated children are at risk for serious illness, even death, from diseases that can be prevented by vaccination.

[Find out more about this topic](#) and get a list of references on National Capital Poison Center's website.

powder into your eyes?

[Read on for the answers...](#)



Reed Diffusers: Potential Household Risk

Reed diffusers are liquid air fresheners in a narrow necked bottle with long sticks inserted into the liquid. These sticks, or reeds, absorb scented liquid from the container and release fragrance into the surrounding air. [Find out why these are a potential risk.](#)

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