

SINCE the government first started mass triple vaccinations against Measles, Mumps and Rubella in 1990, vaccination watchdog groups worldwide have been inundated by reports from parents claiming their children have been seriously injured following the vaccine. It appears that there has been a substantial jump in the number of autism cases which develop soon after the MMR vaccine and a report recently published in the medical journal, *The Lancet*, implicates the MMR vaccine with the risk of a gastrointestinal disorder similar to Crohn's disease.

HILARY BUTLER, independent researcher for the Immunisation Awareness Society, brings to light the serious lack of research into the side effects of the MMR vaccine and the pressure clinical researchers face when their research challenges MMR vaccine safety.

The content of this article reflects the ongoing frustrations of objectively reviewing scientific research into the effects of vaccinations. The Health Department's answer to our questioning title is:

"There are no scientific studies supporting an association between autism and MMR

vaccine, and there is no biological basis for the association as autism has not been reported as a sequel of measles encephalitis."

Indeed there are very few 'scientific studies' on most severe side effects with regard to vaccines. A quick look at the 1994 so-called gold-standard book on vaccine reactions called 'Adverse Events

Does the MMR VACCINE Cause Autism and Crohn's Disease?

Associated with Childhood Vaccines (US Institute of Medicine), lists 49 serious side-effects studied by the research committee. Under the column headed 'Controlled Observation Studies' and 'Controlled Clinical Trials', due to limited information, the words 'no data' were listed 39 times, the word 'indeterminate' was listed seven times, the word 'against' (ie evidence against an association) was listed three times and the word 'for' was listed only twice. The principal finding of this research concluded:

"In the course of its review, the committee encountered many gaps and limitations in knowledge bearing directly and indirectly on the safety of vaccines. These include inadequate events following natural infection or immunisation, insufficient or inconsistent information from case reports and case series, inadequate size or length of follow-up of many population-based epidemiological studies and limited capacity of existing surveillance systems of vaccine injury to provide persuasive evidence of causation. The Committee found few experimental studies published in relation to the number of epidemiological studies published. Clearly, if research capacity and accomplishment in these areas are not improved, future reviews of vaccine safety will be similarly handicapped."

The medical profession, who are quick to discredit parents' reports of vaccine damage because it does not constitute

Vaccination Roulette: Experiences, Risks and Alternatives

Published by the Australian Vaccination Network, ISBN 1329-4873

This book is a result of a year's work by the Australian Vaccination Network, a non-profit organisation. The book exposes the lack of information policy makers have on hand to make decisions that affect our children. It describes the lack of interest they have shown towards distributing unbiased and referenced information and how mainstream press is reluctant to open honest debate. Referenced medical information is simplified so that the true benefits and risks of medical vaccinations can be understood by parents. Parents with vaccine damaged children, some cases fatal, share their heart-breaking experiences. Also included are comments from parents who have chosen not to vaccinate their family and an excellent chapter on how to boost and maintain the immune system using complementary medicines. This book is an easy read of the complex issues behind vaccinations and vaccination programmes. The proceeds of this book will be directed into ensuring our freedom of choice remains.

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