

Research article title: Vaccines are not associated with autism: An evidence-based meta-analysis of case-control and cohort studies (Taylor et al. 2014)

Summary of research and findings: The debate about the possibility of a link between childhood vaccinations and autism has recently become a major public health concern. Fewer parents have taken up vaccination for their children, leading to increased rates of illness and death from diseases such as measles. This can be attributed to the fear of a 'link' between vaccinations and autism. This meta-analysis of 10 studies involving over 1.2 million children has reaffirmed that there is no association between childhood vaccinations and subsequent development of autism. A meta-analysis looks at and combines all of the results of earlier studies, which provides more accurate conclusions than a single study. This analysis found that vaccinations, particularly the MMR vaccination (measles-mumps-rubella), was associated with a decreased risk in a child developing autism.

The main finding was that there was no relationship between vaccination and autism.

Further information: For a summary of this research by Autism Speaks go to: <http://www.autismspeaks.org/science/science-news/new-meta-analysis-confirms-no-association-between-vaccines-and-autism>

For the original article go to: http://www.ruvzca.sk/sites/default/files/dodatocne-subory/meta-analysis_vaccin_autism_2014.pdf

Full reference: Taylor, L. E., Swerdfeger, A. L., & Eslick, G. D. (2014). Vaccines are not associated with autism: An evidence-based meta-analysis of case-control and cohort studies. *Vaccine*, 32(29), 3623-3629.