

Review

Thimerosal and autism: a renewed issue

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Abstract

Autism was and still is an unresolved tragedy in the fields of pediatrics and psychiatry, with an apparent increased incidence and prevalence rates—reaching what is called an “autism epidemic”. Etiologically, genetics is the field of extensive investigation with clear evidence of multiple susceptibility genes on different chromosomes. But, epidemics can not be explained by genetics, so environmental factors are considered a more logical explanation. Such factors include childhood vaccines, especially the measles component of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, and vaccine preservatives, namely thimerosal because of its mercury content. In this review, different views are presented about the issue of Thimerosal and autism.

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