

# **The danger of excessive vaccination during brain development: the case for a link to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**

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## **Abstract**

The incidence of postnatal autism has increased dramatically, beginning after the mid-1980s. A number of studies have related this rise in incidence to a significant increase in the number of vaccines added to the immunization schedule for newborns and small children beginning at this same time. Despite an intensive effort to identify the causation of this disorder little has been offered in terms of a central mechanism. A number of observations concerning alteration in immune system function, abnormal organic acid synthesis, mercury toxicity and gliamorphin effects on cerebral function have been made. Yet, none of these explains adequately the relationship to vaccinations. A compelling amount of research has shown that repeated stimulation of the systemic immune system results in first priming of the microglia in the developing brain, followed by an intense microglial reaction with each successive series of vaccinations. Because of the critical dependence of the developing brain on a timed sequence of cytokine and excitatory amino acid fluctuation, sequential vaccination can result in alterations in this critical process that will not only result in synaptic and dendritic loss but abnormal pathway development. When activated, especially chronically, microglia, the resident immune cell of the brain, secretes a number of inflammatory cytokines, free radicals, lipid peroxidation products, complement and two excitotoxins—glutamate and quinolinic acid. This evidence suggests that this central mechanism results in the pathological as well as clinical features of autism.

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