Review: existing epidemiological evidence does not show an association between mumps, measles, and rubella vaccination and autism


Q (1) Are rates of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) higher in children who have received the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine than in those who have not? (2) Have ASD rates increased as a result of MMR vaccination? (3) Is time of development of ASD associated with time of MMR vaccination? (4) Is a new variant form of ASD associated with MMR vaccination?

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CONCLUSION

Existing epidemiological evidence shows that (1) rates of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) are not higher in children who receive mumps, measles, and rubella (MMR) vaccination; (2) ASD rates have not increased in relation to increased MMR vaccination coverage; (3) time of development of ASD is not associated with MMR vaccination (ie, diagnosis of ASD does not generally occur soon after vaccination); and (4) variant ASD is probably not associated with MMR vaccination, although some of the studies examining this question had important limitations.