

## **No Evidence that MMR Vaccine Causes Autism**

### **The article:**

Wilson, Kumanan, Ed Mills, Cory Ross, Jessie McGowan, and Alex Jadad. "**Association of autistic spectrum disorder and the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine: a systematic review of current epidemiological evidence.**" *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* 157, no. 7 (2003): 628-634.

### **The question:**

What is the evidence for and against an association between Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)—autism and related disorders—and the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine?

### **The study:**

This study reviewed the evidence from published articles available until January, 2003 for and against an association between ASD and the MMR vaccine. The authors searched English and non-English language articles on medical-literature databases and found 12 epidemiological studies on MMR and ASD.

### **The findings:**

None of the 12 studies provided evidence of an association between ASD and MMR vaccine. "The current literature does not suggest an association between ASD and the MMR vaccine," the researchers wrote. "However, limited epidemiological evidence exists to rule out a link between a rare variant form of ASD and the MMR vaccine."

### **The bottom line/ relevance:**

No epidemiological evidence exists of an association between ASD and the MMR vaccine in the medical, peer-reviewed literature.

The authors wrote, "Given the real risks of not vaccinating and that the risks and existence of variant ASD remain theoretical, current policies should continue to advocate the use of the MMR vaccine."

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