The Autism and Vaccines Battle... Do You Need Research That Makes Sense?

Are You Tired of Autism and Vaccines Battle; Do You Want Research Answers that Helps?

TOGETHER WE CAN

At ThinkWell we are thinking long and hard about how to bridge the gap between a research trial, reality and day to day living. This is apparent in the research and vaccines battle.

When research is at odds with experience how can we find real answers? Teach us and let us learn together. Please Watch this blog for answers that will gather evidence and experience from all sides, We will listen with respect so we can learn together. At ThinkWell we believe that when people are passionate the subject needs investigating. An avalanche of confusing expert opinions that exclude others experiences is not enough. We want to help you find answers. We may not agree with your conclusions but the public needs to be empowered to find answers. Let us reason together. Can we build ThinkWell
This response about autism and vaccines was buried in comments. It could be repeated about patients and stem cells, acupuncture, cancer therapy, questions about environmental factors and life. After all a few short years ago men were though to be more intelligent because they had bigger brains, links between stress and disease were laughed at and people believed that after adulthood the brain could not learn. That was what the ‘science’ of the day taught. There have always been a group of individuals that dare to question tradition and think for themselves. If that is you we want to equip you locate research, design studies and find evidence that you can trust.

Hi *****, thank you for responding to the ThinkWell blog about the fact that correlation does not necessarily imply causation.

ThinkWell is not in the business of giving health advice or telling people what they should or shouldn’t do. ThinkWell was founded to help people make their own informed health decisions. We try to do this in two ways:

1. by providing resources that can help people make sense of scientific evidence and learn to distinguish between health
claims that are trustworthy and can be believed and those that are not reliable such as anecdotal reports of single cases.

2. enabling people to come together to undertake health research that addresses the questions they are most interested in.

Why come together to do health research? Well, the sad fact is that our own individual experiences or the individual experiences of other people are simply insufficient to allow us to draw firm conclusions about what caused someone to become ill or whether a treatment helped them get better. For example, the fact that Auntie Nellie lived until she was 103 and was a smoker all her life, does not mean that smoking does not cause lung cancer and heart disease and lead to premature death. So, only by comparing similar groups of people who do or don’t have a treatment or some risk factor like smoking and seeing a difference in the outcome (e.g. disease or getting better), can we confidently conclude that two things are causally associated and not due to coincidence.

You wrote “my daughter got really ill after her first vaccine at three months, and I KNOW that was the cause… her bowels and digestion was never the same, she got a massive candida infection… and the children’s hospital called it a virus”. It is very sad that your daughter was so ill so young. The kind of symptoms you describe can be caused by viruses. Viral infections can cause all sorts of horrendous illnesses. Given that these symptoms can be caused by a virus, can you really KNOW that they were not? How can you know for sure that the fact that she had been vaccinated beforehand was not simply a coincidence?

I think you are right that clean water and good sanitation are important for reducing diseases and there is lots of scientific evidence to support this. There is also a lot of research about how the immune system fights disease. The people who support vaccinations, do so because they believe that this is a way of strengthening the immune systems
response to particular infections. To decide whether a particular vaccine is worthwhile or not, we need to look at whether there are randomized controlled trials of the vaccine. “Randomization” means that whether or not a child gets the vaccine is decided solely by chance. Researchers do this because it is the best way of getting two groups that are similar. This is important because only if the groups are comparable to start with can we be sure that any differences in outcomes at the end were not due to pre-existing differences between the groups. What researchers try to do is to design studies in such a way that we can confidently KNOW from the findings what is the probable cause of any differences between the groups.

Your daughter’s sad experience of becoming ill following her 3 month vaccination is on its own is not a useful guide for other parents who are trying to make a decision about whether or not to vaccinate their kids. This is not an easy decision and involves drawing up the probable benefits and harms of a particular vaccine and the probable benefits and harms of not vaccinating the child and then weighing these against each other to see which course of action is likely to give the best result for the child. Individual experiences don’t provide these probabilities unfortunately. However we hope that by joining together we can generate the kind of information that will provide reliable probabilities in the event that existing research does not already provide this information.

Thanks again for taking the time to share your experience.

Amanda