

*The Truth*  *About Health*

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PARENTS FIGHT PHARMACEUTICALS TO LINK VACCINES WITH AUTISM

Vol. 6 Issue 62

Autism rates have exploded; along with a growing number of parents across the country who are concerned that the preservative found in many vaccines caused autism in their children.

Hundreds of parents have joined a national legal campaign to hold pharmaceutical companies liable for exposing some 30 million children to the vaccines. Among those being charged with product liability, conspiracy and fraud are: Aventis Pasteur, Pfizer, GlaxoKlineSmith, Merck & Co., Abbott Laboratories, American Home Products and Baxter International.

Compensation is being sought for injuries to children suffering with neurological damage after receiving mercury-containing vaccines, and monetary compensation to fund research.

Evidence points to thimerosal, the preservative used to kill the bacteria and fungus in vaccines. In the 1990s, the typical American child received about 22 shots by the age of three; a two-month old would sometimes receive five shots in a single doctor's visit — many contained thimerosal.

Autism rates have exploded over the past 15 years — the same period thimerosal became

more prevalent in vaccines. In California, the number of autistic children soared 273% between 1987-1999, while the overall state population only increased by 20%. In Florida, the number of autistic students reached 5,292 — up 2,728 from 1997.

Many children had high levels of mercury in their systems. The symptoms of mercury poisoning mimic the behavior of autistic children.

Dr. Stephanie Cave has treated over 2,000 autistic children and is convinced thimerosal played a key role in why about one in every 150 toddlers developed the disorder. She also noted when metals, such as mercury, were removed from their systems, they often made remarkable recoveries.

“Vaccines are often treated like ‘sacred cows’ that can do no harm, but many of them hit the market with inadequate testing,” Cave noted.

During the last two years many pharmaceutical companies have removed all or most thimerosal from common pediatric vaccines; however an unknown amount of old products remain on the shelves and it is still found in some flu and RH immune globulin shots given to pregnant women.

SOURCE: St. Petersburg Times, April 15, 2002.