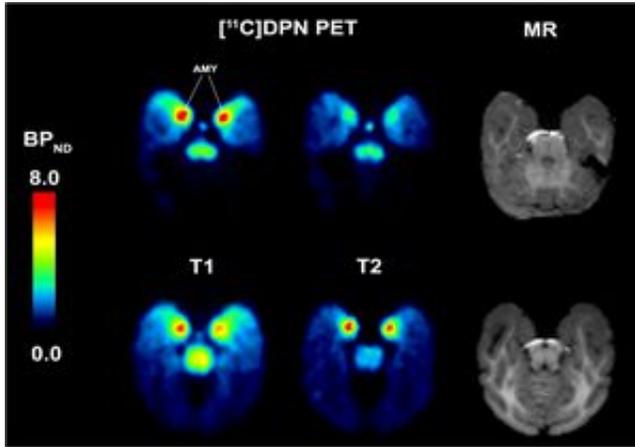


AGE OF AUTISM

July 15, 2010

New Study Shows Vaccines Cause Brain Changes Found in Autism



By Dan Olmsted and Mark Blaxill

Abnormal brain growth and function are features of autism, an increasingly common developmental disorder that now affects 1 in 60 boys in the US. Now researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and Thoughtful House Center for Children in Austin, Texas, have found remarkably similar brain changes to those seen in autism in infant monkeys receiving the vaccine schedule used in the 1990's that contained the mercury-based preservative thimerosal.

The group's findings were published yesterday in the journal *Acta Neurobiologiae Experimentalis*. They used scanning techniques that assessed both brain growth and brain function in the same animals

over time. The research team was able to see differences in the way the brains of vaccinated and unvaccinated animals developed. Scans were performed before and after the administration of primary MMR and DTaP/Hib boosters that were given at the human equivalent of 12 months of age.

Throughout the study period, vaccinated animals showed an increase in total brain volume – a feature of the brain in many young children with autism - when compared with unvaccinated animals. However, a specific part of the brain associated with emotional responses that is thought to be important in autism, the amygdala, did not show abnormalities until after the 12-month vaccines had been given. In addition, after the 12-month vaccines only, the functional brain scans showed significant differences between vaccinated and unvaccinated groups. These functional scans looked at the activity of receptors for morphine-like compounds (opioids) that may play a role in the brain of children affected by autism. Vaccine administration was associated with an increase in opioid binding activity in the amygdala compared with a decrease in the unvaccinated group.

The results indicate that multiple vaccine exposures during the previous 3-4 months may have had a significant impact on brain growth and development in ways that are consistent with the published data on autism. For the amygdala, the novel findings of abnormal growth and function appear to be a function of more recent vaccine exposures - the 12-month primary MMR vaccine and the DTaP and Hib boosters.

In an accompanying editorial Dr. Kris Turlejski, the Editor-in-Chief, described the findings as “alarming”, “support[ing] the possibility that there is a link between early immunization and the etiology of autism.”

In the same primate model, the research team has already identified delayed acquisition of vital brainstem reflexes in infants exposed to the thimerosal-containing hepatitis B vaccine on the first day of life, compared with unvaccinated animals. A larger, second phase study is currently underway to see if these findings can be replicated.

Dr. Andrew Wakefield, who is not a listed author but whose support in the design of the study is acknowledged, said “I hope the model will not only provide important insights into the origins of autism, but also ways of safely testing possible new autism treatments and vaccines.”

References:

Laura Hewitson, Brian J. Lopresti, Carol Stott, N. Scott Mason, and Jaime Tomko. Influence of pediatric vaccines on amygdala growth and opioid ligand binding in rhesus macaque infants: A pilot study. *Acta Neurobiol Exp* 2010. 70: 147–164

Kris Turlejski. Focus on Autism Editorial Comment *Acta Neurobiol Exp* 2010. 70: 117–118



Dan Olmsted is Editor of Age of Autism. Mark Blaxill is Editor-At-Large. Their book *The Age of Autism; Mercury, Medicine and a Manmade Epidemic* is available for pre-order [HERE](#).

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Wow!! Amazing that this study has been done. And amazing that it was not done before, by those responsible for our vaccine program. The immunity from tort liability should have made them more willing to explore problems instead of just more able to cover them up.

Millions and millions spent on research to discover the genes which cause abnormal brain growth, when the answer is right there in front of us just waiting for a relatively simple study such as this one.

Posted by: Twyla | [July 16, 2010 at 12:01 AM](#)



I am curious why this is not on the Local 9:00pm news or on CNN or FOX!!!!

This is just a shame. Proves that the media is owned or affiliated with Big Pharma.

I haven't been posting comments lately... Been working on marriage. Pray for me.

Posted by: Elucidatus | [July 15, 2010 at 11:57 PM](#)



Has Offit's passport been revoked yet? It should be. He'll go hole up with Poul for sure ;)