



Childhood Immunisations

Discussing childhood vaccinations is a great way of getting a debate going as both pro and anti-vaccinators have very strong view points on the topic. I give children their vaccinations as part of my job as a practice nurse. I can tell you that there really is no evidence that vaccinations cause autism in children but there is **lots** of evidence that vaccinations save lives. Unfortunately, a growing number of parents have expressed concern about vaccine safety following a tirade of misinformation from the internet and nonmedical sources. This has led to a significant rise in measles. There is a heart-breaking account of how Roald Dahl's daughter died from measles aged just 7. Back in 1962 we did not have a vaccination for it but now we do. Extensive research has gone into trialling and testing vaccines. The government have given us a full schedule for vaccinations and this is based on evidence based research. I am very happy to share internet links with you from research undertaken and published in medical journals – please contact me if you would like further information.

Andrew Wakefield has a lot to answer for in terms of putting people off the MMR vaccine. He has now been struck off the medical register because of this. Millions of lives have been saved worldwide because of the MMR vaccine. Unfortunately, the uptake for the recommended two MMR injections is now only 87% in the UK. Dame Sally Davis, a top Doctor in the UK has said that there were over 900 cases of measles in the UK in 2018 due to people not having their MMR vaccines. In America the estimated cost of the routine childhood vaccines for 2020 is \$1225 per child. I do not have the numbers to hand for UK vaccines but I do know from ordering them they cost more than you would expect. The NHS pays for all of this because the benefits of the vaccines far outweigh any transient side effects from them.

Is it safe to give several injections at the right time? Absolutely! The UK schedule was designed for the best protection for your child and delaying things by splitting the vaccines up is dangerous for your children as you are leaving them open to catching the very disease you are trying to vaccinate against. It does not overload their immune system giving multiple injections.

<https://www.roalddahl.com/roald-dahl/timeline/1960s/november-1962>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>

If you have any questions or would like to hold a meeting to discuss this further, then I am very open to that. If you are sitting on the fence, then I would really encourage you to vaccinate your children. Patients sometimes ask me if I have had my children vaccinated – absolutely – they are both up to date with the UK schedule.

Blessings,

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