Thimerosal-Containing Hepatitis B Vaccination and the Risk for Diagnosed Specific Delays in Development in the United States: A Case-Control Study in the Vaccine Safety Datalink

David A. Geier, Janet K. Kern, Brian S. Hooker, Paul G. King, Lisa K. Sykes, and Mark R. Geier

Institute of Chronic Illnesses, Inc, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA
Department of Psychiatry, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, USA
Biology Department, Simpson University, Redding, California, USA
CoMeD, Inc, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA

Address for correspondence: Dr. Janet K. Kern, Institute of Chronic Illnesses, Inc., 14 Redgate Court, Silver Spring, Maryland - 20905, USA. E-mail: jkern@dfwair.net

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Abstract

Background:

Within the first 3 years of life, the brain develops rapidly. Its development is characterized by critical developmental periods for speech, vision, hearing, language, balance, etc.; and alteration in any of the processes occurring in those critical periods can lead to specific delays in development.

Aims:

The present study evaluated the potential toxic effects of organic-mercury exposure from Thimerosal (49.55% mercury by weight) in childhood vaccines and its hypothesized possible relationship with specific delays in development.

Materials and Methods:

A hypothesis testing case-control study was undertaken to evaluate the relationship between exposure to Thimerosal-containing hepatitis B vaccines administered at specific intervals in the first 6 months among cases diagnosed with specific delays in development and controls born between 1991-2000, utilizing data in the Vaccine Safety Datalink database.

Results:

Cases were significantly more likely than controls to have received increased organic-mercury from