In case you hadn’t heard yet, autism spectrum disorder is now said to affect one out of 150 children in the United States alone. These numbers only include autism diagnosis and don’t take into account the increased numbers of Persuasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) or Asperger’s Syndrome, which are also considered on the broad spectrum of autism. Obscene amounts of thimerosal injected into babies can be blamed for triggering autistic symptoms in many of these children, but what can explain the susceptibility factor? Why did my child get autism and your child didn’t? Furthermore, why would a family’s first child, who was vaccinated, get autism and subsequent non-vaccinated siblings also develop autism? The answer could lie with the mothers.

With the increasing numbers of chronic illnesses in our society today, one can even refer to this phenomenon as a worldwide epidemic, a disease society. Children are sick with food allergies, childhood diabetes, and asthma, to name a few conditions. They are neurologically affected with autism, Asperger’s syndrome, PDD-NOS, bipolar disorder, ADHD, depression, and obsessive compulsive disorder. Adults are ill with multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, diabetes, cancers, allergies, intolerances, celiac disease, and the list goes on. We must open minds to causes other than just vaccines, when considering the complete state of health of this country. We are living in sick bodies in a toxic world. If we can solve this autism puzzle, then we have a chance of changing this diseased society in which we live.

Infections may be the answer we need to solve this puzzle. The multiple infections that we all have in common need to be looked at. A compromised immune system is allowing these microbes to have a field day on our bodies. When looking at infections, one cannot ignore the many tick-borne diseases such as Borrelia, Mycoplasma, and Bartonella, which are rampant in our population today.

“How could my child have Lyme disease?” This is the most commonly asked question among parents who have a child affected by autism. When a child with autism comes back with a positive lab result for Borrelia, parents ask themselves, how could this be? I often hear parents say, “My child has never had a tick bite.” Physicians need to be armed with information to educate parents on the harsh reality of what may be contributing to this autism epidemic.

Lyme disease has been known as the great imitator. Its ability to mimic the symptoms of chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, and multiple sclerosis, among others, is notorious. Many people have received these diagnoses, but when a keen physician probes further, they find that many, in fact, have Lyme disease. This is a common phenomenon with mothers of autistic children. Many mothers themselves are not well. When asked, most mothers will tell you that they have fibromyalgia or chronic fatigue syndrome or, at the very least, food allergies, fatigue, and general malaise. Usually, mothers ignore their symptoms, feeling that they must just be tired because they are overwhelmed from the demands of having a child with special needs. Many mothers ignore their own treatment, feeling that they need to focus all of their resources on their child.

New Evidence Could Point to Congenital Transmission

A new study from the University of California, Davis may have stumbled upon new evidence regarding the relationship between a mother’s health and the diagnosis of autism in her child. Recently, in Neurotoxicology, a
study by D. Braunschweig et al., titled "Autism: Maternally-Derived Antibodies Specific for Fetal Brain Proteins," determined that "the presence of maternal autoantibodies to fetal brain proteins of approximately 37kDa and 73kDa molecular weight confers an elevated risk for autism." The authors state that "these data provide evidence for an association between the presence of maternal immune system biomarkers and a diagnosis of autism in a subset of children. The presence of specific anti-fetal antibodies in the circulation of mothers during pregnancy may be a potential trigger that, when paired with genetic susceptibility, is sufficient to induce a downstream effect on neurodevelopment leading to autism."

So what are these antibodies that are attacking the fetus' brain? Robert Bransfield, MD, of Red Bank, New Jersey, provided information for the LIA Foundation's East Coast Conference in April on just what this may mean. It may be one more link connecting Lyme disease to autism and is one of several possible processes that may explain how Borrelia burgdorferi infections can result in autism. Bransfield stated that from his research he found that 37kDa is associated with Neuroborreliosis, E.coli, Bartonella, and Mycoplasma. 73kDa is found in chlamydia, strep, Mycoplasma, Bartonella, and Borrelia burgdorferi. He also put the numbers together to show that in the 37 children tested, 37kDa was found in 28% of regressive onset autism cases and 21% of early onset autism cases, which is similar to what the current research is showing for incidence of Lyme in autistic children, reported at a 20-30% incidence. Therefore, showing that bands 37 and 73 are both found in Borrelia burgdorferi and as maternally derived antibodies now known to cause autism shows evidence of congenital transmission.

In Bransfields’ research compilation, he discovered that two other tick-borne diseases appeared to be just as concerning as Borrelia: Mycoplasma and Bartonella. This increases suspicion as to the presence of a tick-borne cause. It is already proven from Professor Garth Nicolson of the Institute for Molecular Medicine that Mycoplasma is found in 58% of the children with autism spectrum disorder. Tick-borne diseases in general should be a concern for congenital transmission in light of this new evidence. It is important to note that only tic-borne diseases hold in common both bands 37kDa and 73kDa.

Now that Bransfield has put the science together, did this UC Davis study contribute to the proof that congenital transmission of Borrelia burgdorferi and/or tick-borne disease can cause autism? Before stating this with certainty, more research needs to be done in this area to prove this hypothesis. However, it should give physicians and parents of autistic children suspicion that this could in fact be a reality for many children on the spectrum.

Autism Prevention – Cutting Off the Epidemic at Its Knees!

This study shows the desperate need for an autism prevention program. Testing young women for these infections before they conceive is imperative and providing proper treatment to minimize transmission to the fetus is essential. What if half of the autism cases could be prevented?

Science has not proven any concrete cause for most children with autism, but subsets of children exist, creating many “autisms,” or categories of children with autism that are different from each other. The Lyme-Autism connection currently appears to affect 20-30% of children with autism spectrum disorder. This is a large enough subset that potentially could be prevented if young mothers are educated on proper health, testing for heavy metals, and identifying infections prior to conceiving. The author encourages e-mails from interested physicians who would like to assist in creating an autism-prevention program.

Long ago, the refrigerator mother myth was debunked, thanks to Bernard Rimland of the Autism Research Institute in San Diego, California who discovered the medical realities that autistic children exhibit. However, many mothers still place a heavy weight of self-inflicted 

---

Save Your Heart With Me

Today, more than ever, people are becoming aware of the need to watch their diet and take the necessary supplements to promote good health for their heart.

SAMOLINIC from The Key Company, is an excellent source for the fatty acids that help maintain a healthy heart. SAMOLINIC contains 500 mg. of Norwegian Salmon Oil and 500 mg. of Black Currant Seed Oil in a softgel form.

Call or visit our website to order your supply of SAMOLINIC today.
The Lyme-Autism Connection

guilt upon themselves, wondering if they did something to cause this in their children. It is unrealistic to think that any mother would knowingly do anything to hurt their unborn baby. Do not misunderstand the intentions of this article. Knowledge is power. We can only begin to heal our children if we open our minds to all possibilities, examine the science, and take a stand to prevent further cases while helping our precious children today.

Tami Duncan
President of LIA Foundation
Website: www.liafoundation.org
E-mail: Tami@liafoundation.org

Notes
4. For more information, please visit the [Lyme-Induced Autism] LIA Foundation at www.liafoundation.org.

2008 Lyme-Autism Connection Conference

Thursday, June 26th
Physician’s Training

Friday, June 27th
General Session and Dinner Event

Saturday, June 28th
General Session
Tee Up For Autism Charity Golf Tournament

Sunday, June 29th
General Session

This 2008 conference will feature top speakers in the field of Lyme disease, autism and alternative medicine. Learn from the best such as:

Steven Harris, M.D., Lee Cowden, M.D., Garry Gordon, M.D., Aristo Vojdani, PhD, Stephen Buhner author of “Healing Lyme”, Jeff Wulfman, M.D., Leo Shea, PhD, Judith Leventhal, PhD, Amy Derkesen, ND, Tamara Mariae, CCN, Christie Dames, Brooke Landau, Nicola McFadzean, N.D., Allan Sosin, M.D., Richard Horowitz, M.D., Cindy Griffin, Jeff Baker, N.D., Toby Watkinson, DC and Deitrich Klinghardt, M.D.

Registration, exhibitor and more information available online at: www.liafoundation.org