Evidence Mounts Implicating Lyme Disease in the Autism Epidemic

More proof has arrived that infections play a role in the epidemic of autism. A new article in Medical Hypotheses, “The Association Between Tick-Borne Infections, Lyme Borreliosis, and Autism Spectrum Disorders,” was released this week. For this paper, Robert Bransfield, MD, the main author, collaborated with top doctors in both fields such as Jeff Wulfman, MD, William T. Harvey, MD, and Anju Usman, MD. The authors also recognized the contributions of Charles Ray Jones, MD, for decades of expertise and dedication in helping hundreds of children with Lyme Borreliosis and autism spectrum disorder.

The summary of the article states that “Chronic infectious diseases, including tick-borne infections such as *Borrelia burgdorferi* may have direct effects, promote other infections, and create a weakened, sensitized, and immunologically vulnerable state during fetal development and infancy leading to increased vulnerability for developing autism spectrum disorders.”

Numbers indicate that 20-30% of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may be infected with Lyme Borreliosis, and pathogenic Mycoplasma may be a contributor in 58% of cases. With these staggering numbers, families and physicians need education on the proper testing and treatment methods currently available. With these 20-30% numbers representing around 140,000 cases of autism in the United States alone, the human impact of this disease is staggering. Bransfield et al. states that “if just 20% of the 560,000 recognized cases of ASD in the US can be prevented or more effectively treated, this could result in a savings of $358 billion in addition to the incalculable human impact of this disease.”

Parents needing more information on testing and treatment can turn to the Lyme-Induced Autism (LIA) Foundation for support. LIA is a non-profit organization that focuses on research, awareness, and education on the multiple infections, including Borrelia/Lyme Disease, and their impact on children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

About Autism

Autism is a disorder that currently affects one out of 150 children. Boys make up the majority of those affected. The number of autism cases spiked in the mid-late 90s and continues to remain high. Most children do improve with some sort of biomedical and behavioral intervention.

About Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is generally caused by a tick bite and can be more effective when antibiotics are administered soon after the infection. Borreliosis is a long-term infection that exists and can be undiagnosed Lyme disease or can be transmitted in some other way. Symptoms include achy joints, confusion, word-slurring, word retrieval problems, brain fog, sensitivity to light and sound. Lyme disease in its late stage can be fatal, causing Multiple Sclerosis-like symptoms and debilitating its victims. One of the disorders that Lyme disease has been known to mimic is autism spectrum disorder.

About the LIA Foundation

The foundation was started in September 2006 by parents of children with autism and Lyme disease. Kathy Blanco of Beaverton, Oregon and Tami Duncan of Corona, California are the founders. The foundation’s goals are to provide awareness, education, and research on multiple infections such as Borrelia and its connection to autism.

For more information on the LIA Foundation, please visit www. liafoundation.org or email info@liafoundation.org.