

'I am unsure about having my child immunised with MMR because ...

<p>1 ...getting protection by catching the diseases is better than having the vaccine.'</p>	<p>1 MMR immunisation is the safest way that parents can protect their children against these serious diseases, as infants, young children and their families are particularly vulnerable.</p>
<p>2 ...the vaccine contains three viruses; given at the same time this is too much for young children.'</p>	<p>2 Over 500 million doses of MMR have been used in over 100 countries around the world since the early 1970s. The World Health Organisation recognises MMR as a highly effective vaccine with an outstanding safety record (<i>WHO, 2001</i>).</p>
<p>3 ...other countries around the world recommend that MMR be given as three separate vaccines.'</p>	<p>3 No country in the world recommends MMR vaccine to be given as three separate injections.</p>
<p>4 ...measles, mumps and rubella are rare in the UK so there is no need to immunise.'</p>	<p>4 Children who are not immunised with MMR increase the chance that others will get the diseases, for example, before MMR, pregnant women would catch rubella from their own children.</p>
<p>5 ...MMR causes autism and bowel disease.'</p>	<p>5 The evidence is that MMR vaccine does not cause autism or inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). There are now numerous studies that do not support a link between autism and IBD and the MMR vaccine (<i>CSM, 1999; Gillberg and Hejbel, 1998; Taylor et al., 1999; Davis et al., 2001; DeWilde et al., 2001</i>).</p>
<p>6 ...there was a scientific paper that showed a real link between MMR and these diseases.'</p>	<p>6 The Wakefield <i>et al.</i> Lancet 1998 study actually said 'We did not prove an association between MMR vaccine and the syndrome described' and none of the studies undertaken since has found a link. Berelowitz, one of the contributors to the Wakefield study has subsequently said 'I am certainly not aware of any convincing evidence for the hypothesis of a link between MMR and autism...' (<i>Berelowitz, 2001</i>).</p>
<p>7 ...giving the MMR vaccines separately reduces the risk of side effects.'</p>	<p>7 Single vaccines in place of MMR put children and their families at increased and unnecessary risk. The combined vaccine is safer as it reduces the risk of the children being infected with the diseases whilst waiting for full immunisation cover.</p>
<p>8 ...the vaccine was not properly tested before it was licensed.'</p>	<p>8 The normal procedure for licensing was used for MMR and the vaccine was thoroughly tested before being introduced into the UK routine immunisation programme in 1988.</p>
<p>9 ...my child has already received one dose so there is no need for a second one.'</p>	<p>9 Two doses of MMR vaccine are needed to give children the best protection before they go to school. Ninety per cent of those who did not respond to the first dose are protected by the second. Those with low antibodies after the first dose will be boosted.</p>
<p>10 ...my son doesn't need protecting against rubella; my daughter doesn't need protecting against mumps.'</p>	<p>10 There are very few children who have a true contraindication to receiving the MMR vaccine (see UK Health Department's <i>Immunisation against infectious diseases 1996</i> for definitive list).</p>

All of the above are wrong.

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