



1601 N. Tucson Blvd. Suite 9
Tucson, AZ 85716-3450
Phone: (800) 635-1196
Hotline: (800) 419-4777

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News of the Day ... In Perspective

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U.S. scientists back autism link to MMR

The vaccine strain of measles virus has been found in 85% of samples taken from the guts of children with regressive autism, according to a study to be presented in Montreal, Canada, this week by Dr. Stephen Walker of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina.

The study replicates findings made by Dr. Andrew Wakefield, a gastroenterologist, in 1998, and by Prof. John O'Leary, a pathologist, in 2002.

More than 2,000 parents in the UK claim their children suffered damage from the measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine. They say the children were developing normally before receiving the shot between 12 and 18 months of age, then regressed into autism.

The British Department of Health reiterated last night that MMR is safe ([Beezy Marsh and Sally Beck, Telegraph.co.uk 5/28/06](#)).

Additional information:

- "Detection of Measles Virus Genomic RNA in Cerebrospinal Fluid of Children with Regressive Autism: a Report of Three Cases," by JJ Bradstreet, J El Dahr, A Anthony, JJ Karzinel, and AJ Wakefield, [J Am Phys Surg, Summer 2004](#)
- The Denmark study on MMR and autism: two articles in [J Am Phys Surg, Fall 2004](#)

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