

Before you vaccinate, educate

Question: I have two children and I am concerned about vaccinating them after reading about the dangers of mercury found in the vaccinations. What do you suggest?

Answer: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) did recently publish a warning regarding the harmful effects of mercury to infants and fetuses yet still included pregnant women as part of the recommended population to warrant vaccines. Ironically the CDC also has statistical knowledge of the ineffectiveness of the flu vaccine yet recommends it for our older population.

What I am implying is that there is a lot of available information as to the pro and con of vaccination for any disease. Whether you have Internet access or not, you can go to your local library and easily access the information. I suggest the following web sites; <http://www.healthday.com>, <http://www.vaccinesafety.edu/thi-table.htm>, and the National Vaccine Information Center: <http://www.909shot.com/>.

I respect any parent's decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate. I believe it is prudent to educate yourself prior to making this critical decision. You have the right to not put drugs in your body or your infant's body should you choose to. Many parents walk blindly and uneducated into their pediatricians office and accept the vaccination as basic procedure because it has been done for so long and there is a social stigmatism to follow the masses. We are in an age of limitless information at our fingertips. The educated person can now protect themselves and their families from unsubstantiated abuse in the health fields. I

suggest you ask your doctor questions about vaccination in general and specifically your child. Before you vaccinate ask yourself these eight!

1. Is my child sick right now?
2. Has my child had a bad reaction to a vaccination before?
3. Does my child have a personal or family history of: vaccine reactions, convulsions or neurological disorders, severe allergies, immune system disorders?
4. Do I know if my child is at high risk of reacting?
5. Do I know how to identify a vaccine reaction?
6. Do I know how to report a vaccine reaction?
7. Do I know the vaccine manufacturer's name and lot number?
8. Do I know I have a choice?

Quote of the week: *"The common sense is that which judges the things given to it by other senses."* – Leonardo da Vinci