Presentation to M.H.B. on MMR Vaccination

Patrick Doorley.

21/2/02
Measles

• Without vaccination *everyone* is likely to get measles
• 1 in 15 cases have complications:
  • ear infection  5 in 100
  • pneumonia     4 in 100
  • convulsions   1 in 100
  • encephalitis  1 in 1000
  • death        1-3 in 1000
Rubella (German Measles).

- Deafness
- blindness
- brain damage
- heart defects
Mumps

- meningitis
- male sterility
- hearing loss
MMR vaccination & autism/bowel disease

Wakefield described 12 children with behavioural symptoms and bowel problems

“We did not prove an association between measles, mumps and rubella vaccine and the syndrome described”

Lancet 1998
MMR vaccine-autism and bowel disease-no evidence

Independent reviews of published and unpublished evidence:

Institute of Medicine Report 2001
American Academy of Pediatrics 2001
WHO
MRC
Issues re single vaccines vs MMR

• Mounting evidence does not support a link between MMR and autism/bowel disease

• Evidence that MMR is highly effective and rarely gives rise to serious adverse reactions
Single vaccines vs MMR

• Wakefield’s advice-yearly intervals-need 6 injections over 5 years
• Child partially protected for longer-risk to individual
• Will allow continued circulation of diseases-risk to community
• Single vaccines regime never used, never tested for safety efficacy
Conclusions

• No sound scientific evidence to link MMR vaccine with autism or bowel disease-
• Mounting evidence showing no link
• a policy of single vaccines in this age group-untried and tested anywhere in the world
• backward step for disease control
Conclusions

• Final decision rests with parents
• HOWEVER-evidence of safety and efficacy of MMR vaccine so overwhelming-
• health professionals should not hesitate in recommending MMR vaccine
Measles, Mumps and Rubella cases in Ireland
1982 - 2001

Introduction of Measles Vaccine
Introduction of MMR
• Vaccination is the safe option

• The child at risk is the child who is not vaccinated