

Vaccination Debate: Literature Review

Literature Review

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## VACCINATION DEBATE

### **Vaccination Debate**

Vaccinating your children has become a massive debate across the globe. Every year fewer parents are choosing not to vaccinate their children. In 2019 alone, there have been 1,000 reported cases of measles (Making the Vaccination Decision: Addressing Common Concerns, 2019). “This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000” (Making the Vaccination Decision: Addressing Common Concerns, 2019). There are many reasons why parents are choosing against vaccinating their children, such as religious reasons, personal beliefs. Concerns involving safety, and the desire to have more information from a healthcare provider before going through with the process. While some of these reasons are valid excuses not to vaccinate your child, it is essential as a health care provider to provide as much proper education regarding vaccines. Patient education can assist in providing parents with the correct information regarding vaccines and can assist in bringing the recent outbreak statistics back down.

### **Child vaccination: ‘A slow erosion’?**

This article goes into the controversy surrounding the anti-vaccination campaign specifically regarding why parents may be choosing not to vaccinate their children. In 2016 England experienced another drop in parents vaccinating their children, a trend that had been seen for a few years previously (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). The question is, why are parents refusing to vaccinate their children from potentially deadly diseases that were once eradicated? One concern this article points out is that parents are concerned with the number of vaccines that the CDC is now recommending (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). Parents may believe this amount of vaccines is too many to give to small children. The

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concern is that their immune systems cannot handle that many vaccines in a short amount of time (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). The list of recommended vaccines continues to grow with the addition of the rotavirus vaccine, the influenza vaccine, and the meningococcal B vaccine. The addition of these vaccines is because we are just now starting to see more incidence of these illnesses becoming deadly, especially in children (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). Unfortunately, the death of small children due to diseases they could have been vaccinated for might become a wake-up call that some parents need to experience. One way we can assist in helping parents understand the importance of vaccines is through patient education (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). It is easy for health care workers to feel busy and overwhelmed during a typical workday. One thing it is even more critical to understand is knowing when to take the time with a family to provide them the proper education. Proper education will allow them to make an informed decision for their family (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016).

### **Key Points**

A topic this article discusses in depth includes the statistics from 2016 regarding unvaccinated children. The percentages are gradually getting lower across the country, and this can cause a possible outbreak. The author discusses how “herd immunity” works; this type of immunity is possible if at least 95% of the population remains vaccinated (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). Because of the 95% vaccinated, the disease has a less probability of continuously spreading and therefore the 5% who are unvaccinated have a lower chance of contracting the disease. This is particularly important for that 5% which may include children with a weakened immune system who are unable to be vaccinated, or children who are

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unvaccinated due to religious reasons. One reason the article discusses may be a cause to this drop in percentages is because of a “slow erosion” involving parents providing more information against vaccines than for information pro vaccines (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). If the only available information individuals can obtain discusses anti-vaccination ideals, the individual will be inclined to believe this information. For this reason, it is essential as a whole that health care systems need to focus more closely on individual patient care. Making sure that families understand the importance of vaccines, as well as the process of receiving them, is crucial to the pro-vaccination campaign.

### **Assumptions**

This article assumes that most people are anti-vaccine because they were not given the proper education regarding the pros of vaccinating their children (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). Members of health care were unsuccessful in providing their patients and their families with adequate information to make an informed decision. There is a significant reason these vaccine schedules have been put in place, and the main reason is that they save lives. If not for these vaccines mass populations of people would die from these diseases. Unfortunately, because many of these diseases have been eradicated, we don't see these diseases in our everyday life. The eradication of these diseases misleads people into thinking that we no longer have to worry about them. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. The reason we no longer commonly see deaths from these diseases is that people started to vaccinate their children, and they were unable to contract the illness. These are the conversations health care professionals need to be having with their patients to assist in the pro-vaccination campaign (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016).

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### **Deficit/Conclusion**

In conclusion, this article emphasizes the importance of vaccinating your children not only to save their lives but to assist in “herd immunity” and save the lives of those who cannot be treated (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). It is clear that this “slow erosion” is having a more significant impact on the entirety of the human population (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). It is imperative at this time to make sure that we are correctly informing and educating everyone about the importance of vaccinations and the threat that these diseases cause to unvaccinated children. Education needs to start with the providers of these patients and should be informative. It is vital to make the patients feel heard and let them voice their opinions (Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”?, 2016). If we can understand each other, then we will be one step closer to coming to a mutual agreement that is safer for everyone involved.

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### **Key Points**

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### **Assumptions**

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### **Deficit/Conclusion**

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### **Deficit/Conclusion**

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### **Conclusion**

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## References

Child vaccination: “A slow erosion”? (2016). *Community Practitioner: The Journal Of The Community Practitioners' & Health Visitors' Association*, 89(10), 10–11. Retrieved from <http://ezproxy.lakeviewcol.edu:2059/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mnh&AN=29944216&site=ehost-live>

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