

Childhood Immunizations

Literature Review

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In recent years, we as a society have seen an increase in childhood diseases that were once eliminated by vaccines. The question arises that if a vaccine is available to prevent the disease, then why is it not being given. Although there are many who question this, the answer is not that simple. Many parents fear that immunizations, such as, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine can in fact harm their children. Their fear stems from an article published a few decades ago by a doctor claiming the vaccine increases the risk of Autism in children. This doctor later recanted his claim and admitted he had no scientific proof of the claim. Unfortunately, the damage had been done. An actress went on to make a public claim that the vaccine was the reason her child was diagnosed with Autism. So where does that mean for us in the healthcare industry. We have a duty to educate the public on the benefits of immunizations. Although there are some risks with these vaccinations, I believe the benefits of having a healthy, living child should outweigh those risks.

The article I found discusses the reoccurrence of vaccine preventable diseases. The reoccurrence of these diseases around the world has led to a number of countries enacting a mandatory immunization schedule to attempt to address the issue. The controversy surrounding the idea of mandatory immunizations result from the elimination of parental or individual choice. The author states that if a country is to go forward with a mandatory vaccination program, then the government should assure financial sustainability, uninterrupted supply and equal access to the entire population (MacDonal & Harmon, 2018). If mandatory immunizations are implemented then the program needs to be fitted to the general population.

MacDonald, M. E., & Harmon, S. (2018). Mandatory infant & childhood immunizations: Rationales, issues and knowledge gaps. *Vaccine*, 2018 Sept 18; Vol 36(39), pp 2811-5818