New evidence for a viral pathogenic mechanism for new variant inflammatory bowel disease and development disorder?

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We are all aware of the public unease about a potential link between vaccination with the triple vaccine MMR (mumps, measles, and rubella) and autism or bowel inflammatory conditions, with some hundreds of parents of afflicted children undertaking legal action against the manufacturers. There is no space to go into detail of the controversy over the link here (search the web using keywords “measles, MMR, vaccination, autism”)—suffice it to say that reliable epidemiologists are content that there is no significant association between MMR and either autism or bowel inflammatory conditions. However, epidemiology is a pretty blunt tool and the studies done do not rule out the possibility that there may be “at risk” groups where a real link between MMR and autism/bowel inflammatory conditions exists.

“There is evidence that developmental disorders are associated with a functional disturbance of the brain–gut axis”

The data presented here are unquestionably interesting but beg a string of further questions: Is replicating whole virus present? Is it identical to the vaccine strain? Are other viruses—mumps or rubella—present? What about the nature of immunity to measles and other pathogens in these children? These questions come immediately to mind. Doubtless the present (and other) authors are pursuing these (and many other) questions: we look forward to answers.

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