

With the Wind with Dr. Paul – Show 206: Pediatric Perspectives: Risk Factors for Autism with Peter McCullough, M.D.

Host:

Dr. Paul Thomas

Guest:

Peter McCullough, M.D.

Cardiologist, epidemiologist, and lead author of the McCullough Foundation Report: Determinants of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Series:

Pediatric Perspectives

Length:

Approximately 34 minutes

Summary

In this episode of *With the Wind with Dr. Paul*, Dr. Paul Thomas is joined by Peter McCullough, M.D. for a deep examination of the McCullough Foundation's comprehensive report, *Determinants of Autism Spectrum Disorder* — a 52-page, 308-reference scientific document that Dr. Paul calls "a masterpiece."

The conversation traces autism prevalence from 1 in 10,000 in the 1960s to 1 in 31 nationally as of 2022, with 27% of those children classified as profoundly autistic. Dr. McCullough explains why genetics alone cannot account for this rise and walks through the risk factors his team identified: genetic polymorphisms that create vulnerability, premature birth, older parents, in-utero drug exposures, and — at the center of the report — the role of vaccines triggering post-encephalitic autism in predisposed children. The discussion covers the 136 vaccine-related studies reviewed, why 29 "neutral" studies fail on closer inspection, and the 12 studies demonstrating that a healthy child born today remains healthier without vaccines. Dr. McCullough also addresses the Tylenol controversy, the universal hepatitis B vaccine, and his vision for risk-stratified, evidence-based vaccination.

Key Points

- 00:01:35 — Dr. Paul opens the show and introduces Dr. Peter McCullough as one of the world's leading cardiologists and most published experts on COVID-19
- 00:02:22 — Dr. McCullough describes how he never considered the vaccine–autism connection until the COVID-19 pandemic brought the autism epidemic into focus
- 00:04:36 — Prevalence data: 1 in 10,000 in the 1960s to 1 in 31 nationally in 2022, with an inflection point around 1986
- 00:07:09 — Overlap between autism, ADHD (approximately one-third), epilepsy, seizures, and tics

- 00:10:35 — The epidemiologic approach: autism has no single cause; the report analyzes risk factors, not absolute causes
- 00:11:00 — Risk factors: common genetic variants (MTHFR polymorphism), premature birth, older parents, in-utero drug exposures (anticonvulsants, antidepressants, antipsychotics, opioids)
- 00:12:55 — Tylenol: Dr. McCullough explains why the Ahlqvist study in JAMA (2024) demonstrated Tylenol is not independently linked to autism
- 00:15:09 — Vaccination during pregnancy combined with Tylenol may present amplified risk
- 00:17:30 — How risk factors create predisposition — and why the vaccine bundle triggers encephalitis in vulnerable children
- 00:18:26 — Premature infants vaccinated on schedule: JAMA randomized trial confirmed increased apnea; implications for SIDS
- 00:19:45 — A child with an autistic sibling is at 5–10 fold increased risk
- 00:20:10 — Twenty vaccines list encephalitis in their package inserts; Dr. McCullough's hypothesis: autism represents a post-encephalitic state
- 00:21:41 — NEJM vignette: one-third of surveyed doctors would refuse a family who declined the MMR vaccine
- 00:22:45 — Mandy Cohen's editorial and the mythology of vaccine-preventable disease: diseases without vaccines (bubonic plague, rheumatic fever, syphilis, TB) all came under control
- 00:24:44 — 136 vaccine-related studies reviewed: 29 found neutral or no association (but used contaminated control groups), 107 showed a possible link
- 00:26:15 — Key finding: 12 studies demonstrate a healthy child born today remains healthier if they receive no vaccines whatsoever
- 00:27:08 — CDC quietly changed its website statements three weeks after the McCullough Foundation report was published
- 00:28:45 — Hepatitis B vaccine: why universal birth dosing is unnecessary for 3.6 million babies when only 25,000 are born to seropositive mothers
- 00:30:33 — Dr. McCullough's vision: risk-stratified, evidence-based vaccination instead of one-size-fits-all mandates
- 00:31:46 — Vaccines are safer individually than in combinations, and safer later in life
- 00:32:46 — A positive close: recovery story of a young woman with vaccine-induced Guillain-Barré syndrome

Quote

"We do believe autism represents a post-encephalitic state. Twenty vaccines have in their package inserts that the vaccines themselves cause encephalitis or brain inflammation. So why wouldn't we think that there is a brain inflammation that occurs — whether clinically recognized or not — and then the post-encephalitic state? That makes sense."

— Peter McCullough, M.D.

Resources

- McCullough Foundation Report: Determinants of Autism Spectrum Disorder
<https://zenodo.org/records/17451259>
- *Vaccines: Mythology, Ideology and Reality* — Peter McCullough, M.D.
- *Vax Facts* — Dr. Paul Thomas and DeeDee Hoover
<https://vaxfactsbook.com>
- The McCullough Foundation
<https://petermcculloughmd.com>
- Doctors and Science
<https://doctorsandscience.com>
- Kids First 4Ever
<https://kidsfirst4ever.com>

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