

Saving a lost generation: Autism and homeopathy

The rise and rise of regressive autism

by Carol Boyce MCH CCH RSHom(NA)



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The might of allopathic medicine claims credit for relieving parents of the fear of acute epidemic diseases and the inconvenience of children sick with childhood diseases. In place of these concerns, parents increasingly worry about spiralling rates of allergies, including asthma, childhood cancers and chronic diseases of all kinds.

In the last two decades this shift in child health has also included dramatic rises in the incidence of neurological and developmental disorders, so that recent studies in the 'developed' world (the irony finds the rate of diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in particular regressive autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) and PDD-NOS (Not Otherwise Specified) have reached 'epidemic' proportions. According to Professor Baron-Cohen at the Autism Research Centre, Cambridge, one in 68 children, and of them one in 39 boys are now affected by some diagnosable level of ASD (2009).

Enormous amounts of research funding have been poured into looking for the causative factor of autism, much of it focused on identifying a genetic causation, despite the fact that the accepted pattern of genetic spread in a population could not account for the spiralling rates of ASD in such a short time span.

Specific genetic markers have been identified that can predict, at a very early age and with a high degree of accuracy, whether a child will develop ASD. What parents can do with this knowledge, however, is another matter.

Individual parents may make connections with their children's regressive autism and the vaccination programme, but their inconvenient questions are given short shrift. Huge effort and significant resources have been poured into lobbying against any suggestion that the recent spike in cases might be related to the huge burden imposed on immature immune systems by the current vaccine schedule and, in particular, the MMR vaccine. In the process Dr Andrew Wakefield has been crucified for daring to pose the

simple question – is the triple vaccine safe? The MMR story, beyond the scope of this article, stands witness to a 'new' way of dealing with medical dissent. Interestingly, recommended by the Institute of Medicine, the US Center for Disease Control is now conducting '... the first rigorous, epidemiological study ... on the issue of thimerosal and autism' (www.cdc.gov).

Under the guise of 'protecting' children from the 'scourge' of childhood diseases, known to kill or maim just a handful of (already sick) children every year in the West, the push for enforced mass vaccination may be trading our children's entire futures and with them the very future of society itself. (For more information on this see: <http://www.ageofautism.com>.)

But whatever the contributing causative factors in the rise of ASD are found to be, the challenge remains. One third of children diagnosed with ASD will never live independent lives, hold employment, have relationships, or children of their own. ASD currently costs the UK government in the

order of £28 billion a year including losses to society of future employment, and so on (Knapp M, Romeo R, Beecham J, 2007).

Allopathic / mainstream medicine considers autism incurable and offers only powerful medications to help deal with the most difficult of behaviours, one-on-one Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy is costly and, for many children, brings limited benefits, particularly if the intervention is not done early enough. One-on-one support workers are assigned to high functioning ASD children able to attend mainstream education, at significant cost to the school system. Apart from this, families are left to their own devices to struggle with what is, for many, a daily nightmare that tears apart families, and forces parents to become round the clock carers for their children.

Not everyone considers ASD a problem

The subject of diagnosis and treatment can be surprisingly fraught. 'Curing autism' is controversial and has been politicised. The social movement ARM (autism rights movement – as well as the neurodiversity movement, the anti-cure movement and the autistic culture movement) encourages the adoption of neurodiversity, so that autism is accepted as a variation in functioning, as a way of life, rather than something which needs to be cured. High functioning adults diagnosed with Aspergers actively challenge the definition of what is 'normal'; there is fear that in the process of becoming neurotypical, they might lose 'special' qualities like remarkable attention to detail, and intense focus.



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Where the boundaries of this movement end is an important issue for children with profound autism and their families. Is it cruel to deprive these children of the opportunity to be more 'normal' if the definition of normal is to be in a position to choose to live independently, to have education, to be part of society, to work, and to have a family of their own?

Other parents, emotionally attached to the idea that ASD is 'incurable' and believing that the most they can hope for are small gains in ability, have invested huge amounts of personal finances, resources, energy and time in intensive therapeutic options. The possibility that an inexpensive, safe and effective solution may exist is something they are unwilling to comprehend.

The complementary and alternative approach

On the CAM side, a whole industry has blossomed around the observation that for most children ASD involves an identifiable complex of metabolic disorders focused in the gut – inflammatory lesions, the inability to excrete toxicity,

especially heavy metals, the presence of chronic candidiasis and other fungal infections and so on, which in turn impacts neurological function. This has in part led to the suggested association of regressive autism with the mercury-based thimerosal preservative used in vaccines.

The convoluted argument from the pro-vaccine lobby goes to great lengths to point out that the MMR triple vaccine no longer contains thimerosal, yet the rate of ASD continues to rise. The same lobbyists

Autism: A pilot study looks at the potential for homeopathy to reverse autism

do not acknowledge that other vaccines in the schedule, for example the flu vaccine, still contains thimerosal, and where thimerosal has been removed it has been replaced by an aluminium-based adjuvant with currently unknown consequences.

Despite increasing numbers of questions asked about and adverse reactions to vaccines reported on, the juggernaut of the vaccine programme not only continues but increases year after year, including the recent unprecedented departure from previous norms with the commercial promotion and push for mandatory use of Cevaxir / Gardacil, the first vaccine advocated for the prevention of a chronic disease. From a homeopathic perspective this brings the potential for the direct imposition of a global miasm in the space of just a few years, increasing as each new cohort of children comes of age (Boyce, 2007).

From the homeopathic perspective there must be a predisposing genetic factor – the homeopathic fundamental cause – and what we do see from the new field of epigenetics is that Hahnemann was right >

The accepted pattern of genetic spread in a population could not account for the spiralling rates of ASD

➤ again. Genetics is not fixed but is malleable and, as he and homeopaths since then have known, it is not only possible, but desirable, to improve the genetics of the parents before they procreate, thereby improving the potential health of every subsequent generation. (Indeed this concept was the aspect of homeopathy that fired my imagination when I first crossed paths with Hahnemann some 30 years ago.)

The fact that there have been no studies into the potential damage from individual vaccines – nor any study about the possible effects of the intense scheduling of combined vaccines, comes as a shock to most parents. The public health promotion of vaccines as both safe and effective is so ingrained into the medical culture that few parents or doctors ever question the programme until faced with a damaged child.

Of the many CAM approaches to ASD, the best known, and most promoted, is the bio-medical DAN protocol (Defeat Autism Now), in part because of the association with US celebrity Jenny McCarthy. McCarthy's son was diagnosed with autism and in her drive to find a solution she used and was impressed by the progress her son made on the DAN protocol. She has promoted the protocol extensively on talk shows, along with creating a 'green the vaccines' movement to get rid of thimerosal in the vaccines used for children.

The DAN protocol includes dietary changes, in particular Gluten Free Dairy Free (GFDF) diets and a wide range of bio-medical interventions like chelation for heavy metal toxicity and anti-fungal medications for candidiasis and other infections, together with high numbers of complex nutritional supplements – sometimes requiring in excess of 30 tablets or capsules per day. As might be imagined, managing this kind of protocol with children is difficult and with small children almost impossible – equally stressful for the parents and the child alike, and very expensive to maintain. Parents and practitioners describe a plateau effect, where the child makes rapid initial progress once on the diet and then again with the supplementation, but gradually progress stalls, and falls short of the progress necessary for a re-diagnosis of neurotypical. It is at this stage that DAN families

look for other options and might consider homeopathy. (I am working with Jenny McCarthy's organisation 'Generation Rescue' to provide a database of homeopaths involved in treating autism.)

The potential for homeopathy

If we consider ASD to be a neurological expression of a metabolic problem, then homeopathy is a logical choice for such cases and an increasing number of homeopaths are treating cases of ASD. Some have specialised in such work, developing a range of specific methodologies that have successfully reversed cases of regressive autism, and identifying specific groups of remedies with affinities for what Louis Klein has described as the 'new child' (2010). Jan Scholten has found the *Lanthanides* indicated and effective in cases where the child is 'locked up inside herself' and obsessive in behaviour (2009). After observing the potential of the *Orchidaceae* family in the treatment of ASD, Louis Klein began the Orchid Project to prove many new orchids to add to the materia medica.

Dr Tinus Smits, of the Netherlands, who sadly passed away in April of 2010, developed a specific homeopathic protocol that he called CEASE therapy (Complete Elimination of Autistic Spectrum Expression) in which all potentially causative factors such as vaccines, regular medications, intoxications and so on, are dealt with in a step by step homeopathic programme. He developed the programme during the treatment of more than 300 children with varying levels of ASD and made it his mission to spread this tool worldwide with the creation of a CEASE practitioner training programme. More information about this method can be found on his website: <http://www.cease-autism.com/3842/autism.aspx> along with this wonderful quote: 'The birth of a healthy child is a miracle; keeping a child healthy is an art.'

Dr Luc De Schepper, a classical homeopath in the US, has worked with ASD for years and written extensively about his experience of children recovering from autism. He makes an association between the syphilitic miasm and the susceptibility to vaccine damage and suggests this may be why these children are particularly susceptible

Hahnemann was right again. Genetics is not fixed but is malleable

to damage from the thimerosal and respond so well to the use of remedies like *Mercurius*.

He focuses on possible trauma in the mother during pregnancy as a trigger for the expression of the syphilitic miasm in the child: <http://www.drluc.com/>.

Pierre Fontaine, working in New York, has evolved a very specific way of taking the case, and in the process has found a way to give a child unable to communicate 'a voice'. He interviews the parent (usually the mother) in an in-depth consultation spanning three hours, during which the parent gradually takes on the 'voice' of the child and is able to describe life from the child's perspective, enabling an accurate prescription and the consequent resolution of the case. Details of his work and the books describing his methodology can be found on his website: <http://www.homeopathicservices.com>.

Fran Sheffield in Australia has successfully treated more than a hundred cases of ASD using strictly classical prescribing, including the use of many polycrests. She has discovered that children on the DAN protocol are at a serious disadvantage once the similimum is found. The intensive DAN supplement regimen begins to interfere with progress, presumably once the child's metabolism resets and begins to function normally; the supplementation programme becomes excessive to the needs of the body, and consequently a burden that hampers progress. In-depth articles about Sheffield's experience and method can be found on her website: <http://www.homeopathy4autism.com>.

Treating a case of ASD should be no different for the homeopath than any other case, although the options for success seem to be increased when the homeopath is familiar with the specific symptomatology of ASD, in order to

identify the strange, rare, peculiar and characteristic symptoms of the case and not confuse them with those that belong to the diagnosis.

We can initially take the pressure off the system by removing the maintaining causes – gluten and casein – from the diet and supplementation to address the nutritional deficiencies that impact the ability to synthesise, catabolise and excrete.

Ultimately, though, the body must be able to complete these processes independently in order to sustain health in the absence of supplementation. Once these metabolic processes are reset and working efficiently, it stands to reason that external supplementation is no longer required and has the potential to overload the system, especially a system that has already had problems with excretion and subsequent toxicity.

Saving a lost generation – a pilot study into the matter

The orchestrated anti-homeopathy movement has become increasingly vocal and vicious and the faculty of homeopathy at the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital (RLHH) increasingly under pressure to toe the line. In early 2007 I was moved to do something to help save the threatened RLHH and decided to film some of the hospital's patients.

It was just two years after the flawed Shang report had run in *The Lancet* (2005) and mainstream media claiming homeopathy performed no better than placebo, so I looked for cases where it would be difficult to assert the placebo effect, and children with ASD seemed a good choice.

A six-minute video clip of two families is here: <http://www.savingalostgeneration.com>.

The footage of two cases treated by Dr Anton van Rhijn forms the basis of a larger ongoing project, including a pilot study looking at the potential of homeopathy to reverse autism. We have a school for ASD children involved, researchers from a university department and a medical doctor willing to do the base line testing are in place. We are currently raising money to run the study.

Recently both Dr van Rhijn and I have had Freedom of Information requests put against us – he for his protocol and results, me for three years of my email communications

with the hospital. The fact that the allopathic profession and the pharmaceutical industry that controls the profession have nothing constructive to offer these families, ought to make them at least curious about the work being done by homeopaths in this arena. That they are obstructive makes clear, if clarity were still needed, that the opposition to homeopathy has absolutely nothing to do with protection of patients and all to do with protection of powerful vested interests. Tragically in the meantime, many children are deprived of referrals to the hospital or from ever finding out that the option of homeopathy even exists.

'The birth of a healthy child is a miracle; keeping a child healthy is an art'

Another series of coincidences

In the summer of 2010, I filmed two families in New York currently in treatment with Pierre Fontaine and am editing these clips for inclusion in the project. Both the children are now in mainstream education and rapidly catching up with their peers.

Max, who previously slept 15 hours a day for most of his life and had to be carried off the school bus exhausted at the end of every day, jumped off the bus into his mother's arms the day after the remedy. The difference in that family is immeasurable. Their son is now part of family gatherings, able to communicate, play with his sibling, chat to his parents and tell them about his day – all the normal things taken for granted with a healthy child, and devastating in their absence.

Louis, at nine years old, was so weak in upper body strength that he could not pull himself up onto a low table, and so emotionally

overwrought, there was a distinct possibility he would be taken into care because it was hard for his parents to keep control of his violent outbursts when outside the home. He is now in mainstream education and doing well – he is a valued member of his class and a significant player on the school basketball team. What was a fractured household is now a close family unit enjoying life.

Of course these cases are simply more anecdotal evidence – all these children treated homeopathically may have 'grown out' of their problems or got better by themselves. It may all be nothing more than more coincidences. But why these dramatic improvements all occurred within hours, days or a couple of weeks of receiving homeopathic treatment after years of suffering then becomes the mystery. Unless of course there really IS something in this homeopathy!

Learn more about the project and get involved here: <http://www.savingalostgeneration.com>.

Watch other clips relating to homeopathy here: <http://www.somethingtosayproductions.com>.

If you want to help with the pilot study and film projects, please email: carol@somethingtosayproductions.com.

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