

**To Find Out More About
Immunization, Visit:**

www.ACOPeds.org

www.aap.org

www.cdc.gov/vaccines

www.immunize.org

www.nlm.nih.gov/

medlineplus/immunization

www.cispimmunize.org

References:

1. Does antigenic overload exist? The role of multiple immunizations in infants. *Immunol Allergy Clin North Am.* 2003 Nov;23(4):649-64.
2. Mercury concentrations and metabolism in infants receiving vaccines containing thiomersal: a descriptive study. *Lancet* 2002 Nov 30;360(9347):1737-41.
3. Novel de novo SHANK3 mutation in autistic patients. *Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet*, 2008 July 9.



**American College of
Osteopathic Pediatricians**

2209 Dickens Road

Richmond, VA 23230-2005

(877) 231-2267 • Fax (804) 282-0090

www.ACOPeds.org

MYTHS

**The Truth About
Immunizations**



Let's Get the Truth Out About Immunizations!

MYTHS

MYTH Immunizations are not needed.

FACT Many diseases still exist in the United States and underdeveloped countries (MMR, Varicella, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hib, Pneumococcus, Rotavirus, Hepatitis B and A). The vaccines are given to boost our immune system against their potential infection.

MYTH Vaccines don't work.

FACT All vaccines create an immune response in the body. Once the immune response is created, it will protect the individual from the organism for which the vaccine was developed.

MYTH Too many vaccines overload the immune system.

FACT The immune system is a complex mechanism of protection. It is able to respond to multiple organisms. The human body comes into contact with a multitude of organisms on a daily basis. The vaccines usually given to infants will protect against a handful of these organisms. The new and vibrant immune system handles these vaccines - even multiple vaccines - without difficulty.¹



MYTH Mercury in vaccines cause problems.

FACT The amount of mercury found in routine vaccinations is minimal. There are no studies that show that mercury from vaccinations accumulates in the body.²

MYTH Diseases that vaccines prevent are gone.

FACT The majority of organisms that vaccines protect against are very much still present in our environment. Without these vaccines, the organisms could infect our infants and children.

MYTH Vaccines cause autism.

FACT Several studies show that there is no association between vaccinations and the development of autism. Some studies have suggested that autism may be a genetic disorder.³

References are listed on back panel.