

One Cause Fits All (or does it?)

Medicine, for many years, has tried to find the specific cause of disease, as I've described, a process called the *Doctrine of Specific Etiology*. Generally, the focus is on one causative agent, such as a bacterium or virus. In the late 20th century, we've witnessed the rise of new, chronic diseases that don't provide us with a clue as to their origin. Autism is one such disease. The name, however, is certainly not descriptive of the multiple problems suffered by the individual labeled autistic.

The symptom picture presented by the autistic child is similar among many of the cases. The medical tests and evaluations are strikingly alike and often differ only in respect to degree. My experience has been that when I've seen one, I've seen them all; **there are just differences in degrees**. Yes, there are some specific differences, but the striking feature is the similarity among the children (Selye's observations). These children suffer from bacterial infection, viral infection, fungal infection, immune system suppression, and abnormal blood readings. And, this is only the tip of the iceberg of the health problems in an autistic child.

I believe the most glaring failure of modern medicine, presented with the autistic child, is that **it doesn't understand how completely compromised such a child was at birth**. Today, many parents of autistic children, who before that diagnosis, weren't opponents of modern medicine and now implicate the mandatory childhood vaccination program as one of the causes of autism.

In so doing, they're becoming critics of modern medicine, particularly to its continuous denial to face a problem that has become obvious to many parents and, even, to some health care providers as well. Until recently, modern medicine and the therapeutic methods physicians use haven't been questioned. Therefore, the recent spate of questioning is a remarkable turn-about and serves to highlight one of the main hallmarks of modern medicine: its own failure to recognize its limitations.

Although I agree with these parents about the vaccinations and their damaging effects, I feel that their opposition is too limited in scope. They're crying for more scientific research to determine whether, for example, the MMR vaccination is inarguably linked to autism. **They're asking the same people who are a part of the problem to come up with a solution to a problem they've created**. This request will meet with failure and, with continued medical involvement, will lead to further damage of

the already sickened child. The philosophical framework of modern medicine isn't rooted in strengthening the organism. It never was, and it never will be.

Unfortunately, the wheels of science turn slowly. In my life, I have had much experience with this. For example, in the 1950's, weightlifting was considered taboo for anyone seriously interested in sports performance. Weightlifting, however, during those years gave me the extra advantage I needed to be a very successful competitor in multiple sports. From that experience, however, I learned that the scientists were wrong in damning weightlifting. I could, of course, cite many examples in which science is too little and too late, but that's not required here for you to get my point.

Parents must understand that autism begins with a susceptible child, one who was already weakened before birth, and who is, then, far more subject to damage from the various assaults existing in the environment: environmental pollution, poor nutrition, and the use of medical drugs, including vaccinations and antibiotics.

These children are vaccinated at birth and the strongest ones fight to clean up the aftermath of the assault. This fight is consistent with Selye's model and includes such things as the attempt to eliminate pus, mucus, and other body excretions. Symptoms of this fight may include fever, sore throats and "ear infections."

In contrast to the beliefs of modern medicine are those beliefs held by other physicians who contend that the role of bacteria has been severely misinterpreted. For example, a leading German physician, Dr. Hans Reckeweg, argues that bacteria are always found at a site of inflammation. But, rather than **causing** the inflammation, they are, instead, **participating in the cleansing process** of toxin elimination. In his view, they have a very important biological role to play. Since inflammation, as we've learned, is a biologically goal-directed attempt towards detoxication and health maintenance, many old ideas need to be reviewed. So, after 130 years of the **Germ Theory of Disease**, could our vaunted medical establishment have erred in deciding that all bacterial conditions are deadly?

Of course, these conditions are viewed as disease, and the child is further drugged in an effort to stop the "disease." This, I believe, contributes to a vicious cycle of continuing deterioration, eventually leading to such treatments as ear tubes, tonsilectomy, and adenoidectomy.

Eventually, through these continued assaults, the vitality of the organism is so reduced that the child can no longer respond and defend himself against *any* assault. Unfortunately, this lack of response is considered a positive, not a negative. The child is no longer ill (apparently) and seems to be free of some of his/her physical symptoms.

But, instead, we now begin to see the appearance of many of the problems that plague the autistic child: the behavioral, mental, and emotional troubles that make his/her life far less than the rich and fulfilling one the parents had anticipated.

I believe autism is the result of a highly degraded Biological Terrain that has penetrated to the deepest levels of the body. The constant physical symptoms and physiological and biochemical abnormalities indicate systemic illness. I believe the condition pre-dates conception, and is a function of developmental delay in utero with the final breakdown deriving from environmental insults, including xenobiotic exposure and pharmaceutical intervention. Additional stresses include the highly refined, sugar-laden, nutritionally deficient diets of modern industrial societies.

Later, we will further explore the effects of the overbearing stresses accumulating in the autistic child and discover the body-brain connection to the failure to adapt to the totality of the stressing agents which leads to the characteristic behavior of the autistic person, a behavior easily predictable from an understanding of the model.