



The Impact of Vaccinations on Causing Autism in Children



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Abstract

Objective- To determine if vaccinations can cause autism in children
Design- Quasi-experimental, Correlational Study
Setting- Hays grade Schools, Kansas City grade schools
Participation- Children ages 5 to age 10
Results/Conclusions- Pending results and data collection

Introduction

The value of this study is to educate parents about vaccinations and autism. This research will provide the evidence to support the assertion that there is no relationship between vaccinations and autism. This study is being done in hopes of helping decrease the number of children who are unvaccinated due to the fear of becoming autistic. According to Autism Speaks (2020) autism is a condition that challenges children with social and learning skills, repetitive behavior and speech difficulties that can lead to poor communication. This disorder is known to affect about 1 in 59 children and is shown to be caused by genetics (Autism Speaks,2020). Due to the importance of this matter, it is imperative that children receive autism screenings between the ages of 18 to 24 months, and then be observed through the ages of ten to help in early detection of autism in communities, and to help provide the children with the right tools to help them succeed. (Zwaigenbaum, et al., 2015).

Purpose

To determine if vaccinations have a correlation with autism in children ages 5 to age 10.

Key Terms

Autism- “refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behavior, speech, and non-verbal communication”(Autism Speaks, 2020).

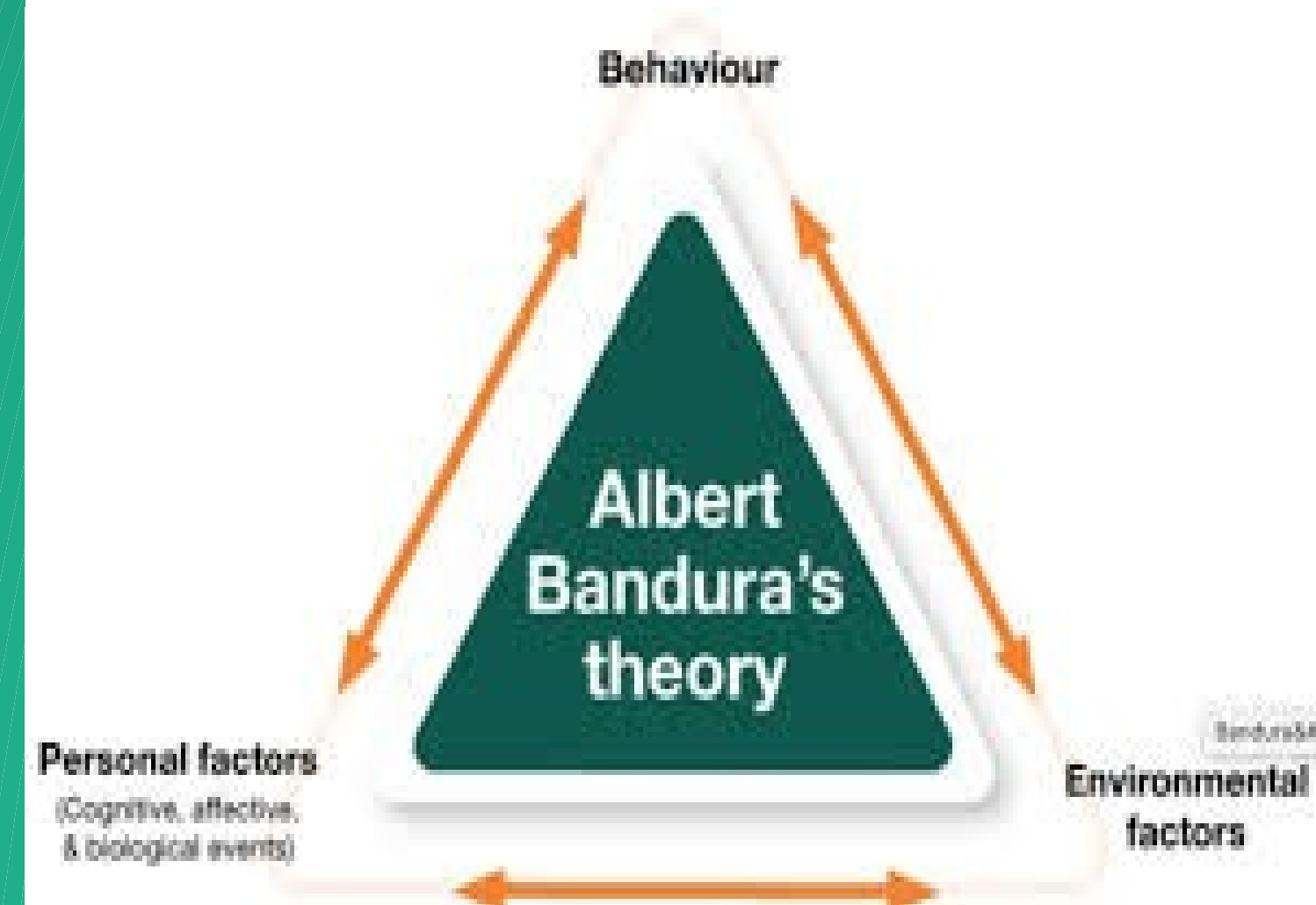
Vaccination- “The act of introducing a medicine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease” (CDC,2018).

Social Learning- “Social learning theory explains human behavior in terms of continuous reciprocal interaction between cognitive, behavioral, an environmental influences” (Bandura, 1977).

<https://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-biology/2018/10/10/environment-in-autism/>



Framework



(Bandura,1986)
This model is representative in children with autism as their behavior is altered in home and school settings. They also have personal factors of not being able to understand pretend play or imitation skills.

Methodology

Research Design/Interventions

Quasi-experimental, correlation

IV: Vaccinations or no vaccinations given to child

DV: Does the child have autism or not

Intervention: Vaccinations on children ages 5 to age 10

Proposed Research Question

Elementary school aged children, who have vaccinations compared to those without vaccines at risk for developing autism until the age of 10?

Literature Sources

A study conducted through the years 1999 through 2010 evaluated the children who were vaccinated with the medication and those who were not vaccinated (Hviid, Hansen, Frisch,& Melbye, 2019). This study showed no observed signs of correlation between those who received the medication and those who abstained from the medication (Hviid, Hansen, Frisch,& Melbye, 2019).



<https://californiahealthline.org/news/does-it-make-sense-to-declare-childrens-vaccines/>

Sample

Hays Grade Schools, Kansas City Grade Schools ages 5 to age 10

Ethical Considerations

Seeking IRB Full Review at 5 Hays grade schools (Woodrow Wilson Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, O’Loughlin Elementary, Holy Family Elementary), at 5 Kansas City grade schools (Faxon Elementary, Nashua Elementary, Briarcliff Elementary, Whittier Elementary, Gladstone Elementary), the Fort Hays State Nursing Department, and Fort Hays State University

Data Collection

N= 500

n= 250 patients will receive vaccinations

n= 250 will not receive vaccinations

During a ten year time period, five elementary schools in Kansas City and five elementary schools in Hays, Kansas will be a part of the study in regards to those who received the vaccines and those who did not. They will be monitored and tested throughout each school year by a researcher to observe for signs of autism. Signs of autism include no eye contact, and no response to name. Poor imitation skills and the child will show signs of social withdrawal. The child will also present with sensory sensitivities. Data will be collected every 3 months and then at the end of each school year the child will undergo a MRI to test brain function. The researcher will then compile the data and report his observations.



<https://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/Article?contentid=1913&language=English>

Results/Findings

Projected Data Analysis Method

A Chi-Square test will be used along with ASD specialists to determine if the child will be diagnosed with autism after receiving vaccinations. The results of this t-test will determine if vaccinations can cause autism in children.

Literature Findings

According to Hviid, Hansen, Frisch & Melbye (2019), the study they conducted in relation to vaccinations and autism was shown to be false. The vaccinations given do not increase the risk for autism nor does it trigger autism and is not associated to cause autism in those who received the vaccination (Hviid, Hanse, Frisch & Melbye, 2019).

Discussion

Implications For Nursing

If children continue to not receive vaccinations because of the risk of being diagnosed with autism; certain diseases such as chicken box, MMR, polio, and whooping cough may become more evident in society if children are not vaccinated. Nurses need to educate people and make sure people are receiving true information. Nurses can decrease fear by doing this.

Conclusion

Pending results and data collection. This study anticipates that children receiving vaccinations will not be diagnosed with autism. Other studies have found that is no correlation between autism and vaccinations. In future research, it is recommended that this study be conducted on a larger scale in more diverse areas. This will show findings to be applied to a different population.

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