

an understanding of remedy reaction (as denoted in **Chapter 2**) and of susceptibility (as discussed in **Chapter 4**), for a complete understanding of the mechanisms at play.

Infants' Immune System Response to Vaccinations

To understand the effects of multiple vaccinations we must contrast an adult's healthy immune system response to a naturally contracted pathogen to that of an infant's immature immune system's response to artificially contracted pathogens via vaccination. Theory tells us that destroyed viral matter in the vaccine looks sufficiently like the original virus that the body will produce the specific antigens to destroy it. Then the eliminatory system of the body will channel it out of the body.

Bringing in the concepts I mentioned before as to the stages of development in the immune system, and the fact that infants are not able to make the specific antibodies to the diseases they are vaccinated against until they are older, understanding how vaccines affect infants' immune systems becomes clearer. As the infants' immune system is not yet able to develop the specific antibodies to these antigens, these antigens cannot be fully disarmed or removed from the body. What happens to them?

In addition, the generalized immune response is sidestepped through direct injection of vaccines into the blood. Because of this, it takes some time for the immune system to realize something foreign is present. Within a week or so of vaccination, the infant may develop general immune response symptoms such as a fever or runny nose in an attempt to rid the body of the viral pathogen. If the infant is very young, the fever can be

quite severe and the level of discomfort high. The body will attempt to localize the pathogen in order to encase it and denature it. A common place to localize inflammations is in the middle ear. In allopathic treatment, antibiotics are prescribed to take away these "infections" and the child gets better for a short time. The antibiotics subdue the fever response yet the body has not been able to get rid of the original viral pathogen. A few weeks later, after the course of antibiotics is finished and when the immune system gains a bit more strength, the cycle is repeated with a fever, ear infection, runny nose, etc., in a continued attempt to remove the foreign matter.

This cycle can go on for months until the child "grows out" of the ear infections, has tubes put in his ears, or a homeopath is sought out. The child does not actually grow out of the ear infections but rather the immune system cannot rouse enough energy to clear the body. A new state of now chronic disease has been created in the child.

The problem is that the immune system, as it is not fully developed, is unable to correctly identify the foreign matter circulating in the bloodstream. While some specific antibodies may develop, the complete chain of events in immune reaction is negated. As a result, all the viral particles are not effectively neutralized. This matter accumulates in various organs of the body and results in a constant state of immune reactivity in an attempt to remove it.

Depending on the inherited health of the infant and the nature of the vaccine, this immune reactivity will settle in the areas of weakness or affinity. For example, the hepatitis vaccine relates to the liver; polio and diphtheria to the nervous system; chickenpox to skin and nervous

system; and measles to the skin, digestive tract and nervous system. Reactions to the vaccines for those particular diseases will demonstrate their symptoms accordingly. This immune reactivity can result in non-specific repeated inflammations like ear infections. The inflammation may settle in the nervous system and produce hyperactivity, developmental delays, speech problems and learning and behavioral disorders. Alternatively, it can manifest as autoimmune conditions, such as allergies, organ failure, bone marrow problems, rheumatism, diabetes, liver problems, skin conditions, etc. The immune system still registers that there is an intruder but because it is not able to recognize it nor is it able to clearly identify self from non-self, the immune system starts attacking itself.

The key to appropriate immune function is the ability to recognize the difference between self and non-self. One has to wonder if the increase in cancer rates and autoimmune disease in today's world has anything to do with the increased quantities of vaccinations given over successive generations and the resulting confusion in the immune system over what is foreign and what is not.

Working with the Immune System Rather Than Against It

The laws of homeopathy are simple. For every action, there is a reaction. In selecting our homeopathic remedies we must first determine what action the body is trying to take. Upon exposure to a germ, the immune system reacts. By administering the remedy that can mimic the action of the body and actually do the work of the body, the reaction to the remedy will be a return to health. The goal in homeopathy is to help the body do what

it is trying to do rather than suppress every action of the healing mechanism and therefore making recovery that much harder. Homeopathy supports the internal defense mechanism to learn how to defend itself and develop the appropriate immune response.

In contrast to homeopathic practice, the use of vaccination suppresses the individual's immune system and increases susceptibility as it bypasses the steps necessary for appropriate immune response. Even though vaccination may inhibit the development of the specific disease in question, in the end the individual's immune system becomes confused and compromised towards the infectious process, i.e. how and when to develop a fever, how to discharge a contagion from the body and how to go through the process necessary to gain general and specific immunity. Vaccination actually increases the susceptibility to other pathogens because it confuses the appropriate immune system function.

Without the outlet of acute diseases, inherited tendencies compound through the generations. The cost of not experiencing these epidemic diseases is postponed to the offspring of the future. Chronic disease is on the rise and Western medicine is failing to link the causal relationship between vaccination, suppression of immune function and the production of chronic disease. As homeopathy becomes more prevalent and available, we can hope to see a change in this trend. With homeopathy we have the potential to increase our level of health and our ability to develop natural immunity to a whole variety of infectious contagious diseases. With homeopathy there may be the opportunity of evolving beyond the susceptibility to these infectious contagious diseases.