

VACCINATIONS: DID NORTH & SOUTH GET IT RIGHT?

INVESTIGATE

Obama's Legacy

Six perspectives, one verdict

Crying Wolf

Has the UN been exaggerating *again*?

Dragon Rising

Is China corrupting our politicians?

Stealing Your Money

Elderly migrants mugged by WINZ

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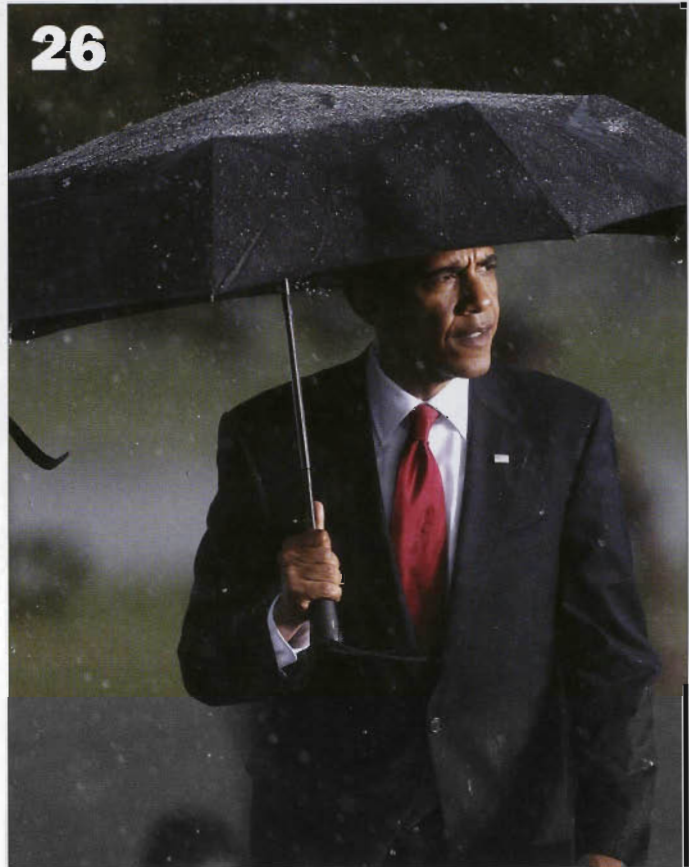
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THE DAYS

How the MenZB vaccine



When five year old
Elijah Tavui had
his first meningitis
immunisation, his
parents **BETH &
SILIKA TAVUI** had
no idea what it
would lead to

OF ELIJAH

went badly wrong for a five year old

Our son was born in October 1999. He had all his childhood vaccines because we were pro-vaccine. Apart from an attack of asthma at the age of four, which resulted in hospitalisation, Elijah had no health issues.

In 2004, as stories about meningitis became commonplace and discussions of vaccination became more intense, this issue of “do we, don’t we” was foremost in my mind. When the MenZB vaccine finally came out, I was still in two minds as to whether I’d give it to my son. What was the deciding factor? I saw the documentary on Charlotte Bisman, listened to her father talking, and was horrified. I thought, “I don’t want that to happen to my child!” so I signed the consent form.

On page 39 of June 2010 *North & South* issue on vaccinations, Charlotte Bisman’s father dismisses “stories” of vaccine damage by saying, “You hear all sorts of stories, but that’s all they are. Stories. The evidence just isn’t there.”

Here is our story and our evidence.

On 4th August, 2005, we rolled up for Elijah’s first dose of MenZB. There were no problems.

After the 1st September 2005 dose, Elijah was very unwell for two days, but who would worry about that, in exchange for not getting meningitis? Then he started to complain of constant tiredness, a sore and watery eye, which was sensitive to the light. What would parents make of that? On 18th October, the doctor said it was conjunctivitis.

So on 27th October 2005, Elijah had his third vaccination. Again, extreme tiredness kicked in. By the 8th November 2005, Elijah couldn’t see out of the left eye which had become sore after the second shot. The vision tester recommended a private eye appointment, because the state system would take a lot longer. Elijah started to have difficulty walking properly, something later diagnosed as “ataxia”.

Three weeks later, the eye clinic at the public hospital said it was a tumour behind the eye, and recommended an MRI. A week later the MRI “confirmed” a tumour behind the left eye, and two more in his brain, but they didn’t know what sort of tumours they were, and Elijah was kept in hospital. Our world was turned upside down.

However, the next day, a doctor came and said that they weren’t tumours after all. The MRI showed extensive changes in basal ganglia, cerebella peduncles and brain stem,



“The vision tester recommended a private eye appointment, because the state system would take a lot longer. Elijah started to have difficulty walking properly, something later diagnosed as “ataxia”

and that Elijah had “Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis” (ADEM) and “Optic Neuritis”. One question that they asked was if he’d been recently vaccinated. I said, “Yes” and thought “Oh my God!”. I asked could that be the cause and was told, “No the timing isn’t right”. I also spoke to some nurses and asked questions about the possible connection to the immunisation and got the brush off.

Extensive tests were conducted on Elijah, looking for just about everything you could think of which could cause ADEM, but nothing came back positive.’

Elijah was treated intravenously with methylprednisolone to suppress the immune system, and generally recovered and was discharged with a left sluggish eye, still very tired, but with better balance though still favouring one side on walking. We thought – and hoped – that would be the end of the story, and our lives could get back to normal, but not so.

On 22nd August 2006, Elijah complained of pain in his right eye this time, and head-

aches. Tests at the eye clinic showed problems, and by 28th August, he was back in hospital to be treated with more IV methylprednisolone.

On 16th August 2007, Elijah again became unwell, but this time it was different. For a few weeks, he was lethargic, off his food, and on and off school. Then he started having sweats night and day, and leg pain. He was weak, vomiting, and in the last week, started running a temperature so we took him to the doctor, who ran bloods, which came back on the 13th September, abnormal with white blood cells, neutrophils and C-reactive proteins highly elevated.

On 14th September 2007, he was admitted to hospital and then discharged home on the same day. We had a follow up on the 16th September and we went back home again. By the next day though he could only walk with assistance, couldn’t urinate, or eat so he was readmitted back into hospital where he deteriorated further. No source of infection could be found, so an MRI was ordered.



“Elijah is under the care of a specialist who we absolutely cannot fault his care of Elijah. He has restored Elijah’s health after each episode and for that we will be forever grateful”

Elijah was losing a lot of weight by this time, unable to tolerate food, so regular tube feeding initiated, but no progress was made. On 25th September, the MRI was repeated and came back abnormal with changes in cerebellar peduncles. Blood tests had abnormalities, with the addition of toxic granulations were on Elijah’s neutrophils. The other blood test abnormalities were similar to those in 2005, and 2006.

Again, extensive blood tests were done, also looking for even more issues this time, such as mitochondrial antigens, antinuclear antibodies; endomysial antibodies- you name it, they did it. Everything was negative. Complicated metabolic testing was also done on samples in Adelaide’s Women and Children’s hospital, in Australia, with nothing coming back positive.

Usually when ADEM happens more than once, there are underlying metabolic, or immunological or other factors to explain them, but with Elijah, none of the normal issues have been found.

IV methylprednisolone was started again for five days, followed by oral steroids for two weeks. Elijah had a slow recovery with slight weakness of one side of the body. He was discharged on 4th October 2007.

You’d hope that these things only come in threes, but no.

One week after coming off his steroid taper he relapsed quickly with reduced vision. He was then prescribed steroids through to March 2008, but had significant side effects from them.

On 18th June, 2008, Elijah was admitted to hospital again for a week with ADEM and left eye involvement (including loss of colour vision) for the fifth time. The diagnosis was changed to Multiphasic Acute Disseminated Encephalopathy. This time it was decided on a different plan, including IV methylprednisolone, and then preventative treatment of IV immunoglobulins.

Elijah had his first IV immunoglobulin infusion on 25th July, and on 28th August, admitted to hospital for a portacath to be

inserted in order for him to have monthly infusions on immunoglobulins.

Elijah started out with 12 hour Intergram infusions split over 2 days but he didn’t tolerate it that well. During the infusion he was alright but afterwards he had extreme headaches and vomiting. These are normal side effects that we were told could happen. I emphasized very clearly how unwell he had been, so it was reduced down and then the amount was slowly built up with each infusion. Now about 22 months down the track he is fine with most of them but still gets occasional headaches, nausea or vomiting. They are much more mild though when he does get them, compared to the severity of the first time.

ADEM happens when your immune system goes into overdrive and starts attacking everything instead of just the baddies. The large doses of Intergram are dampening down his immune system so the overdrive doesn’t happen. Elijah now has 6 hour infusions 6 weeks apart, instead of 12 hour infusions every 4 weeks. He will taper down again soon and will most likely finish up about September/October and get his portacath removed.

Elijah is under the care of a specialist who we absolutely cannot fault his care of Elijah. He has restored Elijah’s health after each episode and for that we will be forever grateful. All the doctors and nurses who have been involved in Elijah’s infusion treatments have also been superb. Trying to make the best out of a bad situation for him.

After Elijah’s second episode I thought long and hard about what had happened. I

sat down and made some notes and made a timeline of events. I decided I really wanted it looked into properly. I had become even more sure that it was the MenZB vaccine which did this, so I rang my GP with my concerns and she was marvellous.

She agreed the timeline of events was eerie and put into action the application to ACC, who took 8 months to decide while they investigated. Interestingly, in the ACC file which we have, there is a discussion between ACC and a specialist about the fact that accepting the claim would be a "big political call". Fortunately, for Elijah, the ACC accepted his claim. This is very important to us, because we had been warned in 2007, that Multiphasic ADEM can end up turning into Multiple Sclerosis.

Who will pay his medical costs and care then?

In their acceptance letter though, the ACC tried to suggest that encephalopathy reactions don't happen after vaccines, are as a result of mutations of sodium channel genes. However, in our case, the hospital did just about every possible test under the sun, in order to try to find some other



Reeling from Gardasil jab

Jodi Speakman has set up a website with other concerned parents after the deaths and serious reactions of teen girls in America to Gardasil. This is her story.

My daughter, Victoria, has been ill since February 2008. Here is some history. I will be as brief as possible. My daughter had her first Gardasil vaccination November 2007. Her second vaccination was in the beginning of February 2008. Immediately after her second vaccination, Victoria experienced severe diarrhea and was nauseous for about eight weeks. She had blood work done many times and doctors thought she had a virus. On March 31, 2008, she had her first seizure.

My daughter has been treated by many neurologists, all of whom have not related her seizures to Gardasil. Meanwhile, there are quite a few hundred people that I have found over the internet through my numerous postings and through Erin Brockovich, and their daughters are all experiencing the same symptoms, which occurred after the Gardasil vaccination.

We have actually formed a group and share our daughters' stories, symptoms and information.

My daughter has had CT scans, MRI's, MRA's, EEG's, blood work and was hospitalized at an epilepsy center in the video EEG monitoring unit for two separate weeks in May 2008 and September 2008. She was put on many different seizure medications. After the normal EEG results, she was taken off all medications. Her SED rate has always been high and she does have protein in her urine, but doctors do not seem concerned. I was told that her red bloods are small, but this apparently is not concerning either.

My daughter has been seen by several neurologists, a psychiatrist, psychologist, several neuropsychologists, an immunologist, several infectious disease doctors, and also treated at a Wellness Center for a period of time. Wellness Center physicians believe that my daughter may

have Lyme disease that was dormant until the Gardasil vaccine. Infectious disease doctors differ. Which doctors are correct? I have no idea.

My daughter currently experiences the following symptoms: non-epileptic seizures, migraines, fainting, tremors, twitches, numbness, intermittent leg paralysis and facial paralysis, tingling, staring or blank episodes, eye pain, joint pain, neck pain, back pain, memory loss, confusion, brain fog, regression, mood swings and chronic fatigue. She continues to have bouts of nausea and diarrhea. She has not been in school since April 2008. My daughter can never be left home alone. She can't go to school, go out with her friends or work or has little "normalcy" in her life. She has very few good days and always says she doesn't feel good.

I do not know which way to turn for help. We have seen so many doctors and I can't seem to find anyone willing to help my daughter. There are so many other young girls who have the same exact symptoms as my daughter and the one thing that all of the girls seem to have in common is the Gardasil vaccination.

We are on a fixed income, as most people,

cause to blame the ADEM on, other than the vaccine. No "stone" was left unturned. Elijah had had no other infections in the year prior to his MenZB vaccinations, and no test showed any other reason for his repeated bouts of acute disseminated encephalomyelitis.

While the ACC said that there had been no other cases of ADEM after MenZB, I found another New Zealand mother who posted on an overseas website that her daughter had had ADEM after MenZB too. I tried to track her down, but failed.

The people I have dealt with at ACC have been wonderful and Elijah has a great case manager who makes sure he gets everything he's entitled to. While it doesn't turn the clock back, and take away what has happened, I certainly feel justified about my feelings from day one, that the vaccine did this to Elijah. A mother's gut instinct is very strong.

Are we out of the woods yet? Who knows? What will happen when they take the portacath out? Only God knows.

I have found a strength and courage I didn't know I had in me. It certainly has

not been the easiest road. I've learnt to be a good advocate for my son. I don't shout or rage. I'm just gently assertive with a very stubborn streak.

When I was tracking down his immunisation dates for the ACC claim, a nurse said very angrily that if this was about ACC, "they don't do lump sum payouts anymore". I was so taken aback. I said to her it has nothing to do with lump sums and is about doing the best for my little boy. And as a mother it was something I needed to know.

How dare she speak to me that way when I am feeling vulnerable and guilty for letting him be vaccinated in the first place. After initially being upset by her reaction it just made me more determined. I have had to let go of a lot of that guilt as there are more important things to put my energy into, like trying to keep Elijah healthy, and trying to prevent Multiple Sclerosis if possible.

Will Elijah get any more vaccines? No way.

Charlotte Bisman's father asks, "Where is the evidence?" There are a lot of children out there, who reacted to the MenZB vaccine, some very badly. Most parents did not have a

GP as helpful and considerate as mine. Most doctors vehemently deny that any vaccine can do any damage at all. One of the ACC nurses who is from overseas, said there is definitely a culture of denial here that an immunisation could be linked to anything untoward.

I sometimes wonder how many other mothers there are out there, who also saw Charlotte Bisman, listened to her father, and have lived to regret the day. We don't hear about them, because like me, they prefer to remain silent.

That's why people like Charlotte Bisman's father, think that we don't exist.

We have decided to break our silence today, because we don't consider what has happened to Elijah "a small, calculated risk".

ENDNOTES

1. **The official ADEM website records: Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM) is classically described as a uniphase syndrome occurring in association with an immunization or vaccination (postvaccination encephalomyelitis) or systemic viral infection (parainfectious encephalomyelitis).** □

and we have expended many thousands of dollars in an effort to seek medical opinions and assistance. Although we do have medical insurance, it is very difficult to find doctors willing to treat my daughter who will accept our HMO. Also, there are no "traditional medical doctors" who will relate my daughter's symptoms to Gardasil as I am told "there is not enough information available" about the vaccine and doctors believe it to be "safe".

The vaccine has been available for less than three years. Meanwhile, there are some doctors who are making the correlation between Gardasil and many of the girls' symptoms. However, the only doctors I know of right now are in California and Kansas. Other doctors are willing to "try" treatment, most of which is "homeopathic" in nature and extremely costly. Once again, I must reiterate that there are so many other young girls experiencing negative symptoms.

Each and every night, I check on my daughter many times in the middle of the night to make sure she is still breathing (like we ALL did when they were babies). I have a chime on her bedroom door so that every time she opens

it, I know she has walked out of her room. I had a deadbolt put on the front door of our home with a key that can be removed from the inside. I never leave the key in the door for fear that Victoria will be confused after a seizure or when she has memory loss, and leave our home. (This has happened many times and she has been missing). When she is in the shower, I have to either stand outside the door and/or keep asking her "are you okay?"

Each and every day, I cry and wonder if Victoria will be next one to die from adverse reactions to Gardasil.

We are in desperate need of medical treatment for my daughter. I have run out of ideas, doctors to treat with and finances have dwindled. I do not know which direction to turn. Any thoughts are most appreciated, especially from the medical community.

The National Vaccine Information Center is in the process of circulating a petition to have Gardasil investigated by the government. There are more than 15,000 reported cases of adverse effects from the vaccine which have been reported to the NVIC (many of the adverse

effects are extremely serious) and approximately 38 deaths have been reported.

FOOTNOTE

Since Jodi Speakman wrote this last year, the number of reported deaths has jumped to nearly 70 in the US, and there has been a fatality in New Zealand as well. A number of girls have developed Hodgkins Lymphoma in the wake of the Gardasil jab in the US, according to comments in response:

"My daughter, age 14, was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma 2-1/2 months after receiving her second Gardasil injection," reported one mother.

"My 16y/o daughter rcvd the injections and was dx'd with Hodgkins Lymphoma 8 months later...in addition I've met 8 other mothers whose daughters are in the same situation following the vaccine. The vaccine contains HSV6 and EPV both having a connection to Hodgkins. I'd caution anyone thinking about getting the vaccine," said another.

Speakman's website is <http://truthaboutgardasil.org>