

# Talking the Talk: Addressing Parental Concerns about Vaccine Safety

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# The Doctor Patient/ Parent Relationship

- The Authority Figure- Trust Me
- The Content Expert- here is the science
- The professional to whom you entrust the health of your child

# The Content Expert

- Overwhelming the immune system- total nonsense!
  - A single vaccine- smallpox has more antigens that all the vaccines presently given in the first year
  - The immune system can make a billion antibodies a day

# Protection Against Which Deadly Disease Do You Want to Delay?

## Comparison of Morbidity, Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Vaccine AEs, US

Disease	Pre-vaccine Era*	2001**	% change
Diphtheria	175,885	2	99.99
Measles	503,282	108	99.98
Mumps	152,209	226	99.80
Pertussis	147,271	5,420	96.30
Polio paralytic)	16,316	0	100.00
Rubella	47,745	20	99.95
Cong. Rubella Synd.	823	2	99.80
Tetanus	1,314	27	97.90
H. <i>Influenzae</i> type b	20,000	290	98.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,064,854</b>	<b>6,095</b>	<b>-99.43</b>
<b>Vaccine Adverse Events</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,526</b>	

\* Maximum cases reported in pre-vaccine era and year

+ Estimated because no national reporting existed in the prevaccine era

# Don't forget the personal stories

- Anecdotes are often more compelling than the science
- You should still be the most trusted medical opinion source but if you don't emphasize your personal connection you are losing your power to persuade

# Internal Ethics

- By not giving vaccines at the recommended schedule are you being asked to practice substandard medicine?
- Depending on your practice setting your actions may be different



*"That's all Folks!"*