

BE CAUTIOUS WHEN READING ABOUT MIRACLE CURES FOR AUTISM!

Foreword; I recently received an inquiry from a parent who said that she read an article “Autism Reversed...” and was asking my opinion about the veracity for such pronouncements. What follows is my cautionary response.

Dear Inquiring Parent, A compelling story but only based upon a small sample size of one boy and with a conflict of interest at that; the promoter is also selling a book that she wrote on the subject.

Over the years I have been informed of many ‘miracle treatments’ for autism, only to find that the proponents are either trying to sell the ‘miracle potion’ or ‘the book’ that describes their approach. All of these notions must be viewed with caution and with a critical eye.

I have occasionally found that there may be a correlation between the ‘improvements’ and the ‘treatment’ but rarely a causative relationship.

This missive raises more cautionary flags than not; testimony of a true believer of the treatment, with reference to a higher authority [God], with a promise of cure, praise of a distant and, what is presented as, a formidable professional who supports the treatment, and, offering of a product [in this case a book about the product] that will render a cure to those with autism.

It sounds like a story of hope and promise, things that parents are looking for and vulnerable because of, but it may be just another way to relieve them of their funds and resolve to find appropriate treatments and send them on the proverbial ‘wild goose chase’.

Always keep in mind that Autism is not a singular syndrome. Autism is a combination of many varied symptoms that require individual assessment and individual treatment. In short, if someone presents to you a ‘cure for Autism’ they do not know what Autism Spectrum is in the first place let alone how to treat its’ many symptom variants.

I refer you to the article I wrote for the Autism Society of America entitled “Guidelines on Theories and Practices” [located on this website]. These guidelines do not dash hope for our children with Autism but, rather, make consumers of theories and practices [parents and professionals] informed consumers; forearmed with critical questions to ask before embarking on a treatment journey.

All best wishes,

Dr. David L. Holmes