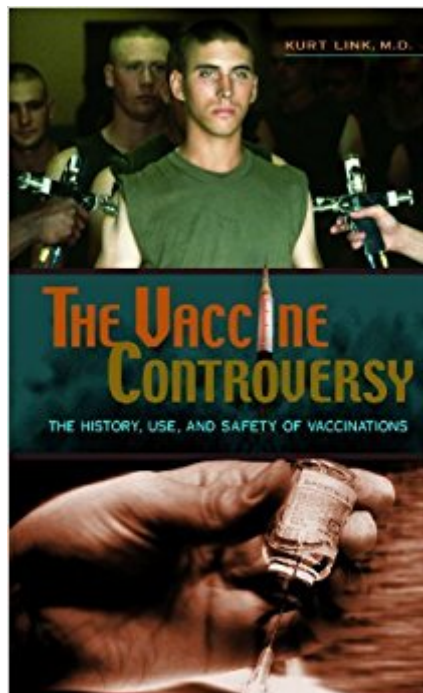




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The Vaccine Controversy: The History, Use, And Safety Of Vaccinations



Synopsis

While millions of Americans receive vaccinations each year, a vocal segment of the population is opposed to all immunizations—some even refusing to get mandated vaccinations for their children. In *The Vaccine Controversy*, Dr. Kurt Link—a specialist in internal medicine—explores that paradox and provides a history of vaccine development, including such possible future vaccines as those being developed in the hope of immunizing against HIV. A strong supporter of vaccination programs, Link explains the immune system and how it works, as well as outlining the various types of vaccines (including the efficacy and potential toxicity of each). Appendices spell out current medical recommendations for vaccines, describe the legal issues involved in decisions to vaccinate or not, and explain the workings of clinical trials where work is done to determine if a vaccine is effective or not, or has any remarkable side effects. Millions of Americans are vaccinated each year, whether they are elders looking to avoid bouts of influenza or children whose parents want to protect them from potentially deadly childhood diseases. Still, there remains a vocal segment of the population in opposition to all immunization, some even refusing to get mandated vaccinations for their children. Here, a specialist of internal medicine explores that paradox. Dr. Link explains the immune system and how it works, as well as the history of vaccine development, and the various types of vaccines including the efficacy and potential toxicity of each. A physician for more than 35 years, Link also spotlights possible future vaccines, such as those being developed in the hope of immunizing against HIV. Appendices to this work spell out current medical recommendations for vaccines, describe the legal issues involved in decisions to vaccinate or not, and explain the workings of clinical trials where work is done to determine if a vaccine is effective or not, or has any remarkable side effects. A strong supporter of vaccination programs, Link says that all people should understand the powers, limitations and risk of immunization.

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Customer Reviews

Not as much detail or up to date information . I found it difficult to read.

I bought this book as I am doing a dissertation of the effects of vaccines to the immunity. The title was a bit deceiving as I thought it would have more info on the effects, instead it is pro-vaccine which i am not. But It has alot of information.

The Vaccine Controversy is a great tool for getting information and history about many of the common vaccines used in in the USA today. It's not an incredibly engaging book but it's organized in such a fashion that it lends itself very well as a reference tool for information concerning vaccines. The majority of the book is organized into chapters that each cover information and the history of a single vaccine. You don't have to have read any of the previous chapters to understand the material covered for each of the vaccines so it makes it easy to quickly look up information about a single vaccine. It also gives a good and concise overview of the history of vaccines that is interesting and factual. It is generally very objective about the material presented in the book about the viruses minus a small part at the very end. Overall this book is a great source of information that I would recommend to anyone who wants to learn more about the most common vaccines that are currently used in the United States.

The Vaccine Controversy: The History, Use and Safety of Vaccinations written by Dr. Kurt Link is a book that is written with incredible precision and clarity on a subject that is currently a very controversial topic. Using a structure that takes readers through the history of each vaccine, the signs and symptoms that each virus causes and the efficacy of the vaccine (including its adverse effects); Link establishes authority through his writing. This structure allows him to compare

vaccines and explore how each has helped those that contract these viruses. The study of viruses can be very confusing, especially to those who have never studied biological processes before. Link is incredibly clear and to-the-point when describing these viruses and vaccines so that any reader can follow what he is saying. His depth of research is especially striking. He touches upon nearly every known vaccine and it is evident that he is very knowledgeable about these vaccines. As well, since he touches upon the adverse effects that can sometimes come from the vaccines, there can be no arguments made that he is trying to "hide" something from readers. I recommend this book for anyone who is on the fence about giving their children vaccines or just want to learn more about vaccines and viruses in general. It is an incredibly clear and unbiased book that is an effective resource. Although it is very informational, it is also a good read if you are into biology or anything of the sort!

The book is written in a very clear and straightforward manner. It is easy to read if you have any kind of interest in the topic of vaccines and the controversy that surrounds many of them. I liked the format the Link wrote the book in (he goes through each vaccine individually) because it allowed the reader to see the similarities of the vaccines and the issues associated with them. Also, the historic overview in the beginning gives a very satisfactory context through which to assess the public's current perception of the danger of vaccines. After reading another book about the vaccine-autism controversy, I found that this book seemed like it held nothing back in terms of the factual dangers of particular vaccines. Thanks!

Dr. Link gives an overview of the history of vaccination and immunization, and ethical issues raised by this. He also has a chapter devoted to known vaccine failures and worse; the best known was the Bundaberg disaster in Australia in the 1920s, involving a batch of bacteria-contaminated vaccine. There were also examples of polio vaccine that gave people polio, and hepatitis spread by smallpox vaccination. He describes the diseases they prevent and what they did to people, since most of us have never known anyone who had some of them, and why people should or should not take the vaccine. He also debunks the vaccines-cause-autism thing, but does admit that the P component of the DPT vaccine does cause neurological damage in a small percentage of people who take it. This is well known in medical circles. There was considerable skepticism raised about the chicken pox vaccine; he saw no indication in giving it to healthy children, and I have to agree. There are also chapters about anthrax and smallpox vaccination and the problems that have arisen from them. The back of the book has the suggested vaccine schedule; he also gives provisions for

spreading them out should the parents wish to do so. Some people may not agree with what he says, but he's old enough to have encountered many of the diseases nobody gets nowadays and that is his only agenda.

This book takes a survey-like look at the state of vaccines at the beginning of the 21st century, with each chapter focusing on one disease and the vaccines available for it. Each chapter is short, from 3 - 10 pages in length, and covers the history and science of that illness, and the history and science of the vaccines for it. The history portions of each chapter includes the source of the illness, its affect on human history, how it spreads, its symptoms, and biology. The vaccine portion includes a famous trials, and the names of the individuals, scientists and patients involved in making the vaccine(s). Most of the major infectious diseases are covered, such as polio, smallpox, chickenpox, and whooping cough. There are few exclusions, these primarily being the more recent ones, like the vaccine against cervical cancer. Another nice feature of the book are the appendices, which cover the legal aspects of vaccine usage, and how vaccines are tested in clinical trials. Overall, the book is quite complete, and quite readable for anyone with some science background. The only thing missing is a comprehensive timeline of events.

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