

## PIVOTAL STUDY FINDS: ELEVATED MERCURY BODY-BURDEN IN AUTISM

### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
November 5, 2009

### CONTACTS:

CoMeD President [Rev. Lisa K. Sykes (Richmond, VA) 804-364-8426]  
CoMeD Science Advisor [Dr. Paul G. King (Lake Hiawatha, NJ) 973-997-1321]

WASHINGTON, DC – A fundamental study, “A Prospective Blinded Evaluation of Urinary Porphyrins Verses the Clinical Severity of Autism Spectrum Disorders”, published in the most recent issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Toxicology & Environmental Health, Part A*<sup>1</sup>, confirms the existence of an increased mercury body-burden in patients diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The research in this article<sup>2</sup> prospectively investigated the relationship between urinary porphyrins measured at the Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) (CLIA-approved, United States) and the severity of ASDs measured using Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) testing. In addition, this study also assessed the degree of agreement between the results for urinary porphyrins measured at LabCorp and the results reported by Laboratoire Philippe Auguste (ISO-approved, Paris, France) on blinded samples from the same subjects.

This study showed participants with severe ASD had significantly increased coproporphyrin (cP I, cP III, and total cP) levels in comparison to participants with mild ASD. A significant correlation was observed between increasing cP levels and CARS scores.

This study also found a significant correlation between the results reported for comparative urinary porphyrin testing by LabCorp and those reported by Laboratoire Philippe Auguste. Finally, there was a significant correlation between the total cP results reported at LabCorp and the results for precoproporphyrin (a specific porphyrin marker for mercury toxicity) reported by Laboratoire Philippe Auguste.

These results are consistent with the findings reported by three previous studies by different investigators examining urinary porphyrins measured among subjects diagnosed with ASDs in France, the United States, and Australia. Furthermore, the present results are consistent with the data showing increased mercury in blood, brain, urine, fecal, and hair samples in subjects diagnosed with an ASD.

The investigators in the current study concluded, “(s)ince the laboratory testing employed in the present study for examining urinary porphyrins is clinically available (covered by many insurance companies in the United States), relatively inexpensive (under \$200 per test), and relatively noninvasive, it is recommended that patients diagnosed with an ASD need to be routinely tested for urinary porphyrins to evaluate their present heavy metal body burden.”

The Autism Research Institute (ARI), the non-profit CoMeD, Inc., and, *through a grant from the Brenen Hornstein Autism Research & Education (BHARE) Foundation*, the non-profit Institute of Chronic Illnesses, Inc. funded this research study.

Today, provided a valid assessment is made, any parent, physician, or healthcare provider can easily confirm whether or not a non-chelated child diagnosed with an ASD is currently mercury poisoned by having urinary porphyrin profile analysis (UPPA) testing run at LabCorp (CLIA-certified, test# 120980) or Laboratoire Philippe Auguste (ISO-certified, 119 Philippe Auguste Avenue, Paris, France 75011). Please, visit CoMeD’s web site, <http://www.Mercury-freeDrugs.org> for information on how to order UPPA tests and full copies of published papers validating the UPPA test.

Your generous tax-free donations will help us to fund additional research, similar to the present study, to examine mercury’s links to autism and other illnesses, define the causal roles of mercury in the linked childhood and adult illnesses, and find appropriate curative therapies.

---

To support the ongoing efforts of CoMeD, Inc. with your tax-deductible contributions, please use the PayPal link on CoMeD’s Internet website, <http://www.Mercury-freeDrugs.org>. CoMeD, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that is actively engaged in legal, educational and scientific efforts to stop all use of mercury in medicine, and to ban the use of all mercury-containing medicines.

---

<sup>1</sup> Geier DA, Kern JK, Geier MR. A Prospective Blinded Evaluation of Urinary Porphyrins Verses the Clinical Severity of Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Toxicology & Environmental Health A* 2009; 72: 1585-1591.

[access to articles full-text available at: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a916457948> ]

<sup>2</sup> Researchers with backgrounds in medicine, neurosciences, genetics, and biochemistry, from the Institute of Chronic Illnesses, Inc., CoMeD, Inc., ASD Centers, LLC, Genetic Consultants of Dallas, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center collaborated on the study.