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Treating Autism

Letter to the editor.

By **Krista Vance**

To the editor:

I have read with interest Wednesday's Associated Press article on autism and the controversy of metal-based therapy. While my heart is definitely tugged by this debate, I am an outside observer of this issue because my son is no longer plagued with the confines of autism. Just nine years ago I was a parent listening to the thundering words, "Your son is autistic." Our family was atypical in that we refrained from immunizing our children at the time prescribed by their pediatrician, but our son was exposed to mercury and other metals in other ways. When tested, he was found to have high levels of metal in his body.

I engaged in every form of therapy I could lay my hands on. I researched, called on physicians, did more research and prayed fervently for this stranglehold to be lifted from my son. I finally found doctors whose words rang true to me. Carefully using chelation therapy and cleansing my son's intestinal tract finally brought him out of autism. Today, he is a healthy, happy 10-year-old, but I continue to be observant and vigilant about his diet.

Science today would have us believe that there is a cookie cutter therapy for everyone with a specific condition. For many ailments that may be true, but autism is a lone giant. It has affected a huge portion of our children because of their susceptibilities and it must be extinguished cautiously and individually, case by case. My heart goes out to every family struggling with this condition. They must not be made to feel as though they are being excessive or jeopardizing the health of their child.

Your article mentions that only 5 percent of the autism research budget has been directed to alternative treatments. Why is that? Because a few men and women in a sanitized office think "safe" is easier than "cured"? Families who have used these therapies and others know they work. Please don't stigmatize us for knowing that there is something more out there for our children that doesn't necessarily follow conventional treatment protocols. Chelation was the

main therapy strategy that pulled my son from autism. I know it works.

Krista Vance
Henderson

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