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Review

Neurobehavioural effects of developmental toxicity

Dr Philippe Grandjean, MD, , Philip J Landrigan, MD
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Summary Full Text Tables and Figures References Supplementary Material

Summary
Neurodevelopmental disabilities, including autism, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, and other cognitive impairments, affect millions of children worldwide, and some diagnoses seem to be increasing in frequency. Industrial chemicals that injure the developing brain are among the known causes for this rise in prevalence. In 2006, we did a systematic review and identified five industrial chemicals as developmental neurotoxins: lead, methylmercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, arsenic, and toluene. Since 2006, epidemiological studies have documented six additional developmental neurotoxins—manganese, fluoride, chlorpyrifos, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, and hexachlorocyclopentadiene. These findings have implications for the prevention and treatment of neurodevelopmental disabilities.

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