

Case 1

A parent brings in her 1-week-old newborn in for a newborn check, and the baby's two-year-old sibling comes along for the ride. You know the family well, and no particular concerns are identified with the baby. The two-year-old sibling has been vaccinated according to the recommended schedule, but mom is now wondering if she should do the same with the newborn, saying she's "heard things" about vaccines that she didn't know before.

Questions:

1. What is your initial response to Mom?

Mom tells you that an acquaintance of hers has told her that there are a lot of "toxins" like mercury, aluminum, and formaldehyde in vaccines, and that that "we" don't know for sure that they're safe.

2. How do you address these fears?

Mom expresses some degree of relief, and goes home with the kids. She returns for the two-month well baby visit, and while she has a couple of questions about the timing of the shots, she agrees to proceed with the recommended schedule. Thereafter, both her children are vaccinated on time, and she doesn't express any further concerns.