Scientists concluded that taking vitamin D while pregnant may help prevent autism in children. The researchers at University of Queensland found a link between low vitamin D and an increased likely hood of autism (University of Queensland, 2017). In order to conduct their research, they first tested it on female rats. They found the female rats that were given Vitamin D supplementation had offspring that did not develop deficits.

The primary source compared to the article definitely has a lot more detailed information and went fully into depth describing exactly what they were doing with experiment. It also explained in depth how vitamin D helps the body with development. The article was a summary and highlighted the findings of the primary source. The link between Vitamin D and lower risk of autism is the highlight of the article, but the primary source also looked at Maternal Immune Activation and the relationship of the behavior attributes (University of Queensland, 2017)

Giving vitamin D to women in their first trimester may lower the risks of autism, which can change the amount of babies born with autism each year. By lowering the risk of autism and changing the amount of babies born with autism will change how society. There will be a decrease in worry for the disorder and a decrease in the funding for the special education and needs for autism if there are less people who are born or develop it.

The article mentioned the affiliation it has with the University of Queensland and research they have conducting on the topic. Right now this is affiliated with a non-profit organization and they are looking for funding to able to do more research. If it were a for-profit organization I think they would have an easier time funding their research. If they are able to prove that vitamin can reduce the risk of autism, this gives the pharmaceutical companies ideas for a new product. Like producing the suggested dose for pregnant woman to take. I haven’t been able to find other researchers that are in disagreement with the claim, but I have found an article that is agreement and is similar to the study. Not only does autism have a link with low vitamin D in pregnant woman, but there is also a relation of low vitamin and childhood diseases. Low vitamin D is a gradually becoming a worldwide epidemic (Cannell, 2013)

Before I read this article, I knew that most Americans are vitamin D deficient, just from experience with myself and researching it. I didn’t know that it could be linked to autism. It makes sense though, and if we can figure out the right dose to give to pregnant women, I think it will be a great benefit to society. I don’t think it will totally get rid of autism all together, but I definitely think it is the step in the right direction.

I think the reporter did a good job on this article. It was short, detailed, and to the point. Not only did the reporter give the information about the link between autism and vitamin D but also gave the risks of what high vitamin D can cause in infants. To let people know to be cautious and not go off and take it upon themselves without a medical professionals help. The reporter also expressed that this is still in the works and they are studying it, but they are getting closer to developing a research study that can eventually be safe to test in humans.

Citations:

1. University of Queensland. "Link between Vitamin D treatment and autism prevention." ScienceDaily. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/03/170317131556.htm (accessed March 20, 2017).
2. Cannell, J.J. "What is the role of vitamin D in autism?" Dermato-endocrinology. January 01, 2013. Accessed March 20, 2017. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24494055