Re: Autism Spectrum Disorders are not Linked to β2 Adrenergic Receptor Agonists Treatment for Preterm Labour/Asthma - Still should be Administered <72 h

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Received date: March 7, 2017; Accepted date: March 9, 2017; Published date: March 14, 2017

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Citation: Reichmann JP (2017) Re: Autism Spectrum Disorders are not Linked to β2 Adrenergic Receptor Agonists Treatment for Preterm Labour/Asthma - Still should be Administered <72 h. J Clin Med Genomics 5: 146. doi: 10.4172/2472-128X.1000146

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest the commentary authored by Dr. Morrison and Dr. Elliott entitled, "Autism Spectrum Disorders are not linked to β-2 Adrenergic Receptor Agonists Treatment for Preterm Labour/Asthma [1]. The same authors have written narrative opinion pieces regarding the association between terbutaline and autism spectrum disorders [2-4]. Letters to the editor have refuted the strength of their assertion [5,6]. Interestingly this argument is largely academic because the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already determined that long term exposure (>72 h) is unsafe for the mother and as a result terbutaline has received a "black box warning" stating it is unsafe to administer to pregnant women as a maintenance therapy for preterm labour [7]. In that same correspondence to this author the FDA stated, “it is not possible to draw conclusions regarding an association between terbutaline exposure in utero and autism spectrum disorders and a recommendation that treatment duration should be as short as clinically feasible; that seems reasonable [8].

References