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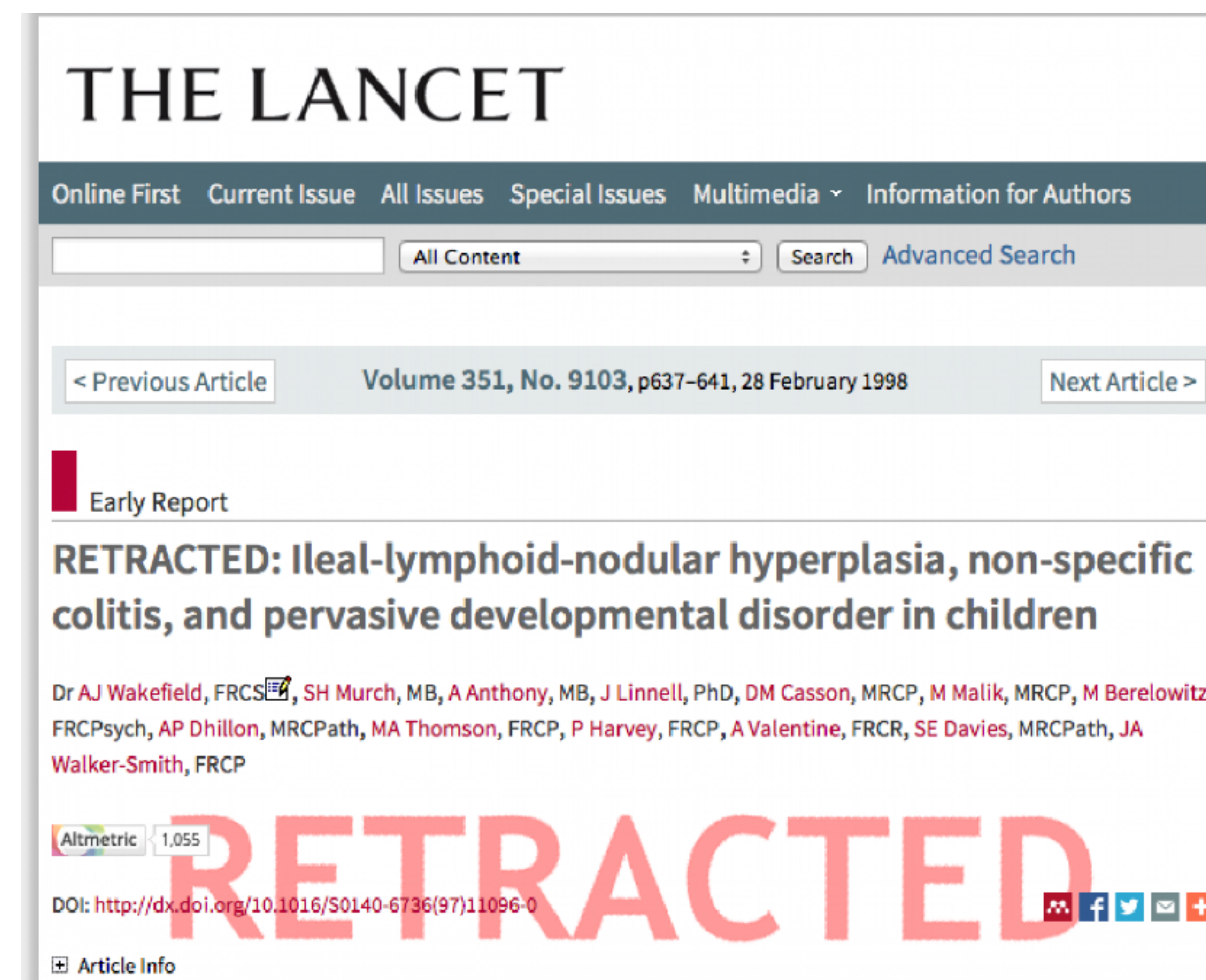
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The Linkage Between Vaccinations and Autism Portrayed Through Mass Media

Alexandria Aytay

Advisor: Chad Painter



Introduction: A 1998 article began the controversy linking autism to the MMR vaccine. After much research it was found that not only was the article false, but journalists were contributing wrong information to the media without considering their audience. News framing on the subject is suggested to be the blame since one article blew up to be this mass speculation.

Why is this topic important: This topic is very important to academia and the mass communication field because this is what mass communication does in the wrong hands. Through a fabricated article, people began to not vaccinate their children in fear that doing so will cause autism. Now, many people are affected and not vaccinated.

Expert Interview with Dr. Teresa Thompson: “The issue of vaccinations is very personal to me because my mother contracted rubella while pregnant because the two neighborhood kids were not vaccinated. As a result, my brother was born with CP”

Poynter Institute: Fabrication was used in the 1998 article. When an audience consumes journalism those consumers are relying on an implicit bond of trust with that journalist.