Presenter: Gianna Wong

Session & Time: Poster III

Room/Time: GLH / 3:30-4:30

Discipline: Nursing

Faculty Mentor: Sarah Lee

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: Ethical Leadership and The Spread of Misleading Information Regarding the Use of Tylenol During Pregnancy and the Connection to Autism

Abstract:

Abstract

Leadership shapes public understanding of health information. Recently, claims of a link between acetaminophen (Tylenol) use in pregnancy and autism or ADHD have received attention. Current research does not show a clear cause-and-effect relationship. Yet, political leaders, legal actions, and the media have caused confusion and concern. This shows the need for ethical leadership to communicate accurate information.

Methods:

This study uses a qualitative approach to examine leadershipâ€™s role in spreading information about acetaminophen in pregnancy. It reviews public statements, legal cases, and media coverage. Leadership concepts like power, trust, ethics,

and responsibility are applied. The study also explores how leaders shaped public views.

Results:

Leadership communication greatly increased public fear and misunderstanding. Statements presented uncertain research as definitive, causing confusion and reduced trust in health advice. Media and social media spread these messages further. As a result, many, especially pregnant women, felt anxious and uncertain about health choices.

Conclusion:

Ethical leadership is essential in preventing the spread of misinformation, especially in public health issues. Leaders must communicate clearly, acknowledge scientific uncertainty, and consult experts before sharing information. Improving ethical leadership practices can help rebuild public trust, support informed decision-making, and reduce the negative impact of misinformation on individuals and communities.