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Preparation for the future: A review of tools and strategies to support autonomous goal setting for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders.

**Author(s):** Hodgetts, Sandra; Park, Elly  
**Source:** Disability & Rehabilitation; Mar 2017; vol. 39 (no. 6); p. 535-543  
**Database:** CINAHL

The "Western disease": Autism and Somali parents' embodied health movements.

**Author(s):** Decoteau, Claire Laurier  
**Source:** Social Science & Medicine; Mar 2017; vol. 177; p. 169-176  
**Database:** CINAHL

A systematic review of research into aided AAC to increase social-communication functions in children with autism spectrum disorder.

**Author(s):** Logan, Kristy; Iacono, Teresa; Trembath, David  
**Source:** AAC: Augmentative & Alternative Communication; Mar 2017; vol. 33 (no. 1); p. 51-64  
**Database:** CINAHL

CHALLENGING AUTISM WITH EXERCISE.

**Author(s):** Geslak, David S.  
**Source:** ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal; Mar 2017; vol. 21 (no. 2); p. 19-24  
**Database:** CINAHL

Research Opportunities in the Area of People With Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Source:** American Journal of Occupational Therapy; Mar 2017; vol. 71 (no. 2); p. 1-2  
Available in full text at American Journal of Occupational Therapy, The - from ProQuest
Intensity and Learning Outcomes in the Treatment of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Author(s): Linstead, Erik; Dixon, Dennis R.; French, Ryan; Granpeesheh, Doreen; Adams, Hilary; German, Rene; Powell, Alva; Stevens, Elizabeth; Tarbox, Jonathan; Kornack, Julie

Source: Behavior Modification; Mar 2017; vol. 41 (no. 2); p. 229-252

Database: CINAHL

Disentangling signal and noise in autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Van de Cruys, Sander; Van der Hallen, Ruth; Wagemans, Johan

Source: Brain & Cognition; Mar 2017; vol. 112 ; p. 78-83

Abstract: Predictive coding has recently been welcomed as a fruitful framework to understand autism spectrum disorder. Starting from an account centered on deficient differential weighting of prediction errors (based in so-called precision estimation), we illustrate that individuals with autism have particular difficulties with separating signal from noise, across different tasks. Specifically, we discuss how deficient precision-setting is detrimental for learning in unstable environments, for context-dependent assignment of salience to inputs, and for robustness in perception, as illustrated in coherent motion paradigms.

Database: CINAHL

A case of autism, learning disability, and refusal of a planned caesarean.

Author(s): Symon, Andrew

Source: British Journal of Midwifery; Mar 2017; vol. 25 (no. 3); p. 198-199

Available in full text at British Journal of Midwifery - from EBSCOhost

Database: CINAHL


Author(s): Edwards, A.; Brebner, C.; McCormack, P.; MacDougall, C.

Source: Child: Care, Health & Development; Mar 2017; vol. 43 (no. 2); p. 202-210

Database: CINAHL

ECHO Autism.

Author(s): Mazurek, Micah O.; Brown, Rachel; Curran, Alicia; Sohl, Kristin

Source: Clinical Pediatrics; Mar 2017; vol. 56 (no. 3); p. 247-256

Available in full text at Clinical Pediatrics - from EBSCOhost

Database: CINAHL

Advances in developmental neuropsychiatry: autism spectrum disorder, Cornelia De Lange syndrome, self-injurious behavior, Down syndrome, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and borderline intellectual functioning.

Author(s): Harris, James C.

Source: Current Opinion in Psychiatry; Mar 2017; vol. 30 (no. 2); p. 65-68

Database: CINAHL

Autism spectrum disorder: outcomes in adulthood.

Author(s): Howlin, Patricia; Magiati, Iliana

Source: Current Opinion in Psychiatry; Mar 2017; vol. 30 (no. 2); p. 69-76

Abstract: Purpose Of Review: Until recently, there has been little systematic study of adult life among individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) but recognition of the high psychological and social costs
of ASD has led to an increase in adult-focused research over the past decade. The aim of this review is to summarize recent empirical findings on outcomes for adults with ASD. Recent Findings: Most research on adult outcomes in ASD indicates very limited social integration, poor job prospects and high rates of mental health problems. However, studies vary widely in their methodology, choice of measures and selection of participants. Thus, estimates of how many adults have significant social and mental health problems are often conflicting. There is little consistent information on the individual, familial or wider social factors that may facilitate more positive social and psychological outcomes. There is a particular dearth of research on older individuals with ASD. Summary: The very variable findings reported in this review reflect the problems of conducting research into lifetime outcomes for individuals with a condition as heterogeneous as ASD. Much more systematic research is needed to delineate different patterns of development in adulthood and to determine the factors influencing these trajectories.

Database: CINAHL

Adults with autism spectrum disorders: a review of outcomes, social attainment, and interventions.

Author(s): Poon, Kenneth K.; Sidhu, Dalvin J. K.
Source: Current Opinion in Psychiatry; Mar 2017; vol. 30 (no. 2); p. 77-84
Abstract: Purpose Of Review: With the increasing incidence of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, there is a need to develop programs to support them throughout their lifespan but research in adulthood support is still scarce. This article aims to provide an up-to-date review of the research on the core characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), social attainments, and efforts to improve their outcomes. Recent Findings: The core social communication impairments continue into adulthood among persons with ASD, but the restrictive, repetitive patterns of behavior and activities have received less attention. Adults with ASD experience more behavioral and emotional regulation issues than their peers. In terms of social attainments, adults with ASD have a greater tendency to be overeducated for their jobs and have a lower employment rate. They are also more likely to live with their parents. Interventions make a positive impact upon social communication skills and employment. Summary: Future research could focus on the repetitive behavior of adults with ASD. Likewise, interventions examining the extent to which repetitive behavior and interests can be managed, as well as the degree to which they can be supported in their community access, living arrangements, as well as family quality of life can be further conducted.

Database: CINAHL

The emergence of autism spectrum disorder: insights gained from studies of brain and behaviour in high-risk infants.

Author(s): Varcin, Kandice J.; Jeste, Shafali S.
Source: Current Opinion in Psychiatry; Mar 2017; vol. 30 (no. 2); p. 85-91
Abstract: Purpose Of Review: We review studies of infants at risk for autism spectrum disorder (ASD), proposing that the earliest manifestations of disrupted brain development can shed light on prebehavioural markers of risk and mechanisms underlying the heterogeneity of ASD. Recent Findings: Prospective, longitudinal studies of infants at risk for ASD have revealed that behavioural signs of ASD are generally not observed until the second year of life. The developmental signs within the first year are often subtle and rooted in processes outside the core diagnostic domains of ASD, such as motor and visual perceptual function. However, studies examining early brain development and function have identified a myriad of atypicalities within the first year that are associated with risk for ASD. Summary: Longitudinal studies of high-risk infants provide a unique opportunity to identify and quantify the sources of the atypical development and developmental heterogeneity of ASD. Integration of assays of behaviour and brain in the first year of life, expansion of the definition of high risk, and coordinated efforts in multisite investigations to adequately power integrative studies will lead to new insights into mechanisms of atypical development and, ultimately, the ideal timing and target for interventions that aim to attenuate delays or impairments.

Database: CINAHL

Self-injurious behaviour in people with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Oliver, Chris; Licence, Lucy; Richards, Caroline
Source: Current Opinion in Psychiatry; Mar 2017; vol. 30 (no. 2); p. 97-101
Abstract: Purpose Of Review: This review summarises the recent trends in research in the field of self-injurious behaviour in people with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder. Recent Findings: New data on incidence, persistence and severity add to studies of prevalence to indicate the large scale of the clinical need. A number of person characteristics have been repeatedly identified in prevalence and cohort studies that: can be considered as risk markers (e.g. stereotyped behaviour, autism spectrum disorder) and indicate possible causal mechanisms (e.g. sleep disorder, anxiety). Studies have started to integrate traditional operant learning paradigms with known person characteristics and reviews and meta-analyses of applied behaviour analytic procedures can now inform practice. Summary: Despite these positive developments interventions and appropriate support falls far short of the required need. Expansions in applied research are warranted to develop and evaluate innovative service delivery models that can translate knowledge of risk markers and operant learning paradigms into widespread, low cost routine clinical practice. Alongside this, further pure research is needed to elucidate the direction of causality of implicated risk factors, in order to understand and intervene more effectively in self-injury.

Database: CINAHL

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Autism spectrum disorder and attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder in Down syndrome.

Author(s): Moss, Joanna F

Source: Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology; Mar 2017; vol. 59 (no. 3); p. 240-240

Abstract: The article presents a study conducted by C. Richards on the clinical concern of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and associated characteristics in Down Syndrome population. Topics discussed include symptoms of ASD in Cornelia de Lange syndrome, tuberous sclerosis complex, and fragile X syndrome; using an array of standardized diagnostic tool for evaluating the prevalence of ASD and attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in Down syndrome, and need of clinical evaluation for diagnoses.

Database: CINAHL

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Prevalence of autism and attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder in Down syndrome: a population-based study.

Author(s): Oxelgren, Ulrika Wester; Myrelid, Åsa; Annerén, Göran; Ekstam, Bodil; Göransson, Cathrine; Holmbom, Agneta; Isaksson, Anne; Åberg, Marie; Gustafsson, Jan; Fernell, Elisabeth; Myrelid, Åsa; Annerén, Göran; Göransson, Cathrine; Åberg, Marie

Source: Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology; Mar 2017; vol. 59 (no. 3); p. 276-283

Abstract: Aim: To investigate the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in a population-based group of children and adolescents with Down syndrome, and to relate the findings to level of intellectual disability and to medical conditions. Method: From a population-based cohort of 60 children and adolescents with Down syndrome, 41 individuals (29 males, 12 females; mean age 11y, age range 5-17y) for whom parents gave consent for participation were clinically assessed with regard to ASD and ADHD. The main instruments used were the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised, Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Swanson, Nolan, and Pelham-IV Rating Scale, and the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System-II. Results: High rates of ASD and ADHD were found: 17 (42%) and 14 (34%) of the 41 children met DSM criteria for ASD and ADHD respectively. Interpretation: Children with Down syndrome and coexisting neurodevelopmental/neuropsychiatric disorders in addition to intellectual disability and medical disorders constitute a severely disabled group. Based on the results, we suggest that screening is implemented for both ASD and ADHD, at the age of 3 to 5 years and early school years respectively, to make adequate interventions possible.

Database: CINAHL

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Author(s): Magaña, Sandra; Lopez, Kristina; Machalicek, Wendy

Source: Family Process; Mar 2017; vol. 56 (no. 1); p. 59-74

Database: CINAHL
Knowledge-guided mutation in classification rules for autism treatment efficacy.

Author(s): Engle, Kelley; Rada, Roy
Source: Health Informatics Journal; Mar 2017; vol. 23 (no. 1); p. 56-68
Database: CINAHL

Factors That Affect Age of Identification of Children With an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Author(s): Adelman, Chana R.; Kubiszyn, Thomas
Source: Journal of Early Intervention; Mar 2017; vol. 39 (no. 1); p. 18-32
Available in full text at Journal of Early Intervention - from ProQuest
Database: CINAHL

The relationship between regression in autism spectrum disorder, epilepsy, and atypical epileptiform EEGs: A meta-analytic review.

Author(s): Barger, Brian D.; Campbell, Jonathan; Simmons, Christina
Source: Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability; Mar 2017; vol. 42 (no. 1); p. 45-60
Database: CINAHL

Meaningful outcomes for enhancing quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Pfeiffer, Beth; Piller, Aimee; Giazzoni-Fialko, Tina; Chainani, Anjali
Source: Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability; Mar 2017; vol. 42 (no. 1); p. 90-100
Database: CINAHL

Clinical needs and outcomes of adults with intellectual disabilities accessing an inpatient assessment and treatment service and the implication for development of community services.

Author(s): Sandhu, Daljit; Tomlins, Rose
Source: Journal of Intellectual Disabilities; Mar 2017; vol. 21 (no. 1); p. 5-19
Available in full text at Journal of Intellectual Disabilities - from SAGE ; Notes: Sign in with OpenAthens details

Abstract: The role and future of assessment and treatment units for people with intellectual disabilities is once again the focus of debate and government policy. Reviewing the admissions to inpatient services can provide useful information about the characteristics, needs and clinical outcomes of clients. Data were collected retrospectively for all 36 referrals accepted to an inpatient assessment and treatment unit for people with intellectual disability, between January 2013 and April 2014. Clinical and demographic characteristics of service users were identified through descriptive analysis. Male service users, mild intellectual disability and diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder were frequent, and a high proportion of admissions had complex and multiple needs. The Health of the Nation Outcome Scale-Intellectual Disabilities was used as a clinical outcome measure. We conclude with recommendations for service development following closure of our inpatient service.
Database: CINAHL

Children with autism spectrum disorder: teaching conversation involving feelings about events.

Author(s): Conallen, K.; Reed, P.
Source: Journal of Intellectual Disability Research; Mar 2017; vol. 61 (no. 3); p. 279-291
Database: CINAHL
M-CHAT autism screening may be inaccurate among toddlers born very preterm.

Author(s): Gray, Peter H.

Source: Journal of Pediatrics; Mar 2017; vol. 182; p. 401-404

Database: CINAHL

Individuals with gender dysphoria and autism: barriers to good clinical practice.

Author(s): Lehmann, K.; Leavey, G.

Source: Journal of Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing; Mar 2017; vol. 24 (no. 2/3); p. 171-177

Database: CINAHL

The Journey.

Author(s): Chandragiri, Satyanarayana

Source: Psychiatric Services; Mar 2017; vol. 68 (no. 3); p. 216-217

Abstract: The article offers the author's experience as doctor in taking care of 75 year old man named R who has autistic spectrum disabilities. Topics mentioned include the plans of his sister for a birthday party for R, the tradition of the family for end of life care, and the lessons learned from the siblings who has developed understanding towards the condition of their brother but they did not agree on his actions.

Database: CINAHL


Author(s): Mitchell, Rebecca; Barton, Sarah; Harvey, A Simon; Williams, Katrina

Source: Systematic reviews; Mar 2017; vol. 6 (no. 1); p. 49

Available in full text at Systematic Reviews - from BioMed Central

Abstract: BACKGROUND Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is an autosomal dominant condition, caused by mutations in either the TSC1 or TSC2 gene. It has widespread systemic manifestations and is associated with significant neurological morbidity. In addition to seizures and cerebral pathology including cortical tubers, subependymal nodules, subependymal giant cell astrocytoma and abnormal white matter, there are recognised neuropsychiatric difficulties including intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and a range of learning and behaviour problems, recently conceptualised as "tuberous sclerosis-associated neuropsychiatric disorders", or "TAND". ASD in TSC is of particular importance because (1) it affects up to 50% of people with TSC and is a source of considerable difficulty for them and their families and (2) it provides a model for considering neurobiological pathways involved in ASD. Multiple factors are implicated in the development of ASD in TSC, including (1) seizures and related electrophysiological factors, (2) cerebral pathology, (3) genotype and (4) child characteristics. However, the neurobiological pathway remains unclear. We will conduct a systematic review to investigate and synthesise existing evidence about the role of these risk factors, individually and in combination, in leading to the development of ASD.

METHODS Our review will report on all studies that include one or more of four predefined risk factors in the development of ASD in children with TSC. We will search five databases: MEDLINE, EMBASE, PubMed, The Cochrane Library and Web of Science (Conference Proceedings Citation Index). Studies will be selected for reporting after two authors independently (1) review all titles and abstracts, (2) read full text of all appropriate papers and (3) assess for bias using the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale recommended by the Guidelines for Meta-Analysis and Systematic Reviews of Observational Studies (MOOSE guidelines) and the ROBINS-I.

DISCUSSION To our knowledge, this is the first systematic review investigating multiple risk factors in the development of ASD in children with TSC. Clarifying the evidence in this area will be important to researchers in the field and to clinicians providing prognostic information to families.

Database: Medline
Variations of stereotypies in individuals with Rett syndrome: A nationwide cross-sectional study in Taiwan.

Author(s): Chin Wong, Lee; Hung, Pi-Lien; Jan, Tz-Yun; Lee, Wang-Tso; Taiwan Rett Syndrome Association

Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: Individuals with Rett syndrome (RTT) can have variable manifestations of stereotypies. In this nation-wide cross-sectional study, we recruited all individuals with RTT in Taiwan diagnosed as RTT by neurologists based on genetic findings and diagnostic criteria. The data were collected using questionnaire. A total 43 cases of typical RTT and 15 cases of atypical RTT, aged from 2.1 to 40.1 years, were enrolled. They included 3 (5.2%) in stage II, 42 (72.4%) in stage III, and 13 (22.4%) in stage IV. All individuals presented with at least one stereotypy. Individuals with atypical RTT had more varied stereotypies (mean: 14 ± 6) compared to those with typical RTT (mean: 9 ± 5) (P = 0.003). Flapping (73.3%) and wringing (58.1%) were the most common hand stereotypies in atypical and typical RTT, respectively. Compared with typical RTT, hair pulling, bruxism, retropulsion, and protrusion of lips were more common in atypical RTT (P = 0.003, P = 0.006, P = 0.003 and <0.001, respectively). The number of stereotypies did not differ among different stages, clinical severities, and hand functions. Although there were no age-related changes in stereotypies in atypical RTT, flapping (P = 0.012), clapping (P = 0.044), and mouthing with single hand (P = 0.009) were significantly more prevalent in individuals aged <10 years with typical RTT, and they decreased after 10 years. In conclusion, our study showed that the stereotypical movements varied in typical and atypical RTT, implying the heterogeneous nature of the disease and the pathogenic mechanisms of RTT with atypical features. Autism Res 2017. © 2017 International Society for Autism Research, Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

Database: Medline

Atypical sensory sensitivity as a shared feature between synaesthesia and autism.

Author(s): Ward, Jamie; Hoadley, Claire; Hughes, James E A; Smith, Paula; Allison, Carrie; Baron-Cohen, Simon; Simner, Julia

Source: Scientific reports; Mar 2017; vol. 7 ; p. 41155

Abstract: Several studies have suggested that there is a link between synaesthesia and autism but the nature of that link remains poorly characterised. The present study considers whether atypical sensory sensitivity may be a common link between the conditions. Sensory hypersensitivity (aversion to certain sounds, touch, etc., or increased ability to make sensory discriminations) and/or hyposensitivity (desire to stimulate the senses , or a reduced response to sensory stimuli are a recently introduced diagnostic feature of autism spectrum conditions (ASC). Synaesthesia is defined by unusual sensory experiences and has also been linked to a typical cortical hyper-excitability. The Glasgow Sensory Questionnaire (GSQ) was administered to synaesthetes and people with ASC. Both groups reported increased sensory sensitivity relative to controls with a large effect size. Both groups also reported a similar pattern of both increased hyper- and hypo-sensitivities across multiple senses. The AQ (Autism-Spectrum Quotient) scores were elevated in the synaesthetes, and one subscale of this measure (attention to detail) placed synaesthetes within the autistic range. A standard laboratory test of visual stress (the Pattern Glare Test), administered online, corroborated the findings of increased sensitivity to aversive visual stimuli in synaesthetes. We conclude that atypical sensory sensitivity is an important shared feature between autism and synaesthesia.

Database: Medline


Author(s): Hulbert, Samuel W; Jiang, Yong-Hui

Source: Neuroscience bulletin; Mar 2017

Abstract: Transgenic mice carrying mutations that cause Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) continue to be valuable for determining the molecular underpinnings of the disorders. Recently, researchers have taken advantage of such models combined with Cre-loxP and similar systems to manipulate gene expression over space and time. Thus, a clearer picture is starting to emerge of the cell types, circuits, brain regions, and developmental time periods underlying ASDs. ASD-causing mutations have been restricted to or rescued specifically in excitatory or inhibitory neurons, different neurotransmitter systems, and cells specific to the forebrain or cerebellum. In addition, mutations have been induced or corrected in adult mice, providing some evidence for the plasticity and reversibility of core ASD symptoms. The limited availability of
Cre lines that are highly specific to certain cell types or time periods provides a challenge to determining the cellular and circuitry bases of autism, but other technological advances may eventually overcome this obstacle.

Database: Medline


Author(s): Gerber, Alan H; McCormick, Carolyn E B; Levine, Todd P; Morrow, Eric M; Anders, Thomas F; Sheinkopf, Stephen J

Source: Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

Abstract: The current study investigated healthcare satisfaction and factors related to satisfaction in 92 adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Participants or their caregiver completed a survey about their experiences with primary care and specialty physicians. Respondents reported a high level of satisfaction with their healthcare. The only factor significantly associated with satisfaction was age, with participants under age 26 reporting significantly higher levels of satisfaction than participants above age 26. Participants under age 26 also were significantly more likely to live at home, have private health insurance, and have others making their healthcare decisions than participants above age 26. Results indicate that healthcare satisfaction can be high for adults with ASD that have good family and community support.

Database: Medline

Heterogeneity of sensory features in autism spectrum disorder: Challenges and perspectives for future research.

Author(s): Uljarević, Mirko; Baranek, Grace; Vivanti, Giacomo; Hedley, Darren; Hudry, Kristelle; Lane, Alison

Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: Pronounced heterogeneity is apparent across every facet of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and it remains difficult to predict likely future potential among individuals who share a common diagnosis of ASD on the basis of early presentation. In this commentary we argue that a fine-grained understanding of individual differences in sensory features and their influence across the life span can constrain noted clinical heterogeneity in ASD. We organize our discussion around the following three critical themes: (a) considering sensory features as dimensional construct; (b) taking an "individual differences" approach; and (c) adopting a comprehensive, multidimensional and multimodal approach to measurement of sensory features. We conclude that future research will need to investigate individual differences in sensory features via: (1) multidimensional and cross-disciplinary examination, (2) prospective longitudinal designs, and (3) dimensional and developmental frameworks that emphasize the potential value of early individual variability as indicators of later outcomes, not only in relation to the categorical diagnostic outcome status but also the presence of other clinical features. This is a key time for sensory-related research and in this commentary we provide some of the steps that, in our opinion, can shape future research in this area.

Database: Medline


Author(s): Craig, Francesco; Fanizza, Isabella; Russo, Luigi; Lucarelli, Elisabetta; Alessandro, Lorenzo; Pasca, Maria Grazia; Trabacca, Antonio

Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: The aim of this study was to classify children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) according to Autism Classification System of Functioning: Social Communication (ACSF:SC) criteria, in order to investigate the association between social communication ability, ASD severity, adaptive functioning, cognitive abilities and psycho educational profile. The severity of social communication impairment was specified through Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5th edition (DSM-5) and ACSF:SC tool. The ADOS-2, Vineland-II and PEP-3 were administered to all participants. We found a positive correlation between DSM-5 levels and ACSF:SC-Typical Performance ($r = 0.35; P = 0.007$) and ACSF:SC-Capacity ($r = 0.31; P = 0.01$) levels. Children included in the five levels of ACSF:SC (Typical Performance and Capacity) showed statistically significant differences in ADOS-2 (Social Affect), Vineland-II
Communication and Socialization), and PEP-3 (Communication, motor skills, maladaptive behavior) scores. The results of this study indicate that ACSF:SC provide a better understanding of functional profile of children with ASD based on the social communication abilities. Children with greater severity of social communication showed more difficulty in adaptive behavior and psycho educational profiles. In conclusion, the ACSF:SC could help clinicians and therapists not only to understand the strength and weakness of preschool children with ASD but also to devise specific treatment in order to promote their social integration.

**Ensemble perception in autism spectrum disorder: Member-identification versus mean-discrimination.**

**Author(s):** Van der Hallen, Ruth; Lemmens, Lisa; Steyaert, Jean; Noens, Ilse; Wagemans, Johan

**Source:** Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** To efficiently represent the outside world our brain compresses sets of similar items into a summarized representation, a phenomenon known as ensemble perception. While most studies on ensemble perception investigate this perceptual mechanism in typically developing (TD) adults, more recently, researchers studying perceptual organization in individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have turned their attention toward ensemble perception. The current study is the first to investigate the use of ensemble perception for size in children with and without ASD (N = 42, 8-16 years). We administered a pair of tasks pioneered by Ariely [2001] evaluating both member-identification and mean-discrimination. In addition, we varied the distribution types of our sets to allow a more detailed evaluation of task performance. Results show that, overall, both groups performed similarly in the member-identification task, a test of "local perception," and similarly in the mean identification task, a test of "gist perception." However, in both tasks performance of the TD group was affected more strongly by the degree of stimulus variability in the set, than performance of the ASD group. These findings indicate that both TD children and children with ASD use ensemble statistics to represent a set of similar items, illustrating the fundamental nature of ensemble coding in visual perception. Differences in sensitivity to stimulus variability between both groups are discussed in relation to recent theories of information processing in ASD (e.g., increased sampling, decreased priors, increased precision).

**Database:** Medline

**Aggressive behaviors and treatable risk factors of preschool children with autism spectrum disorder.**

**Author(s):** Chen, Chen; Shen, Yi-Dong; Xun, Guang-Lei; Cai, Wei-Xiong; Shi, Li-Juan; Xiao, Lu; Wu, Ren-Rong; Zhao, Jing-Ping; Ou, Jian-Jun

**Source:** Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** Aggressive behaviors of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are common. We conducted this study to describe the aggressive mode of preschool children with ASD and examine the associations between specific aggressive behaviors and two treatable factors: sleep problems and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms. In total, 577 typically developing (TD) children and 490 children with ASD were investigated in this study. The Institute for Basic Research - Modified Overt Aggression Scale (IBR-MOAS) was used to assess aggressive behaviors. Children's social impairments, sleep problems and ADHD symptoms were also measured with specific scales. The total IBR-MOAS score was significantly higher (worse) in the TD group [4.47 (5.36)] than in the ASD group [3.47 (5.63), P = 0.004]. The aggressive modes differed between groups: when compared with each other, the TD group received higher scores on Verbal and Physical Aggression Toward Others (all P < 0.01), while the ASD group had higher scores on Physical Aggression Against Self (P = 0.006). The linear regression model demonstrated that the aggressive behaviors of children with ASD were significantly associated with two treatable factors: sleep problems and ADHD symptoms. These findings have substantial clinical implications: treatment of these two risk factors may be helpful in managing aggressive behavior in children with ASD.

**Database:** Medline
Short report: Symptom overlap on the srs-2 adult self-report between adults with asd and adults with high anxiety.

Author(s): South, Mikel; Carr, AnnaLisa W; Stephenson, Kevin G; Maisel, Max E; Cox, Jonathan C
Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: Many people diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) also experience significant symptoms of anxiety, while many people with anxiety disorders likewise experience social difficulties. These concerns can be difficult to tease apart in general clinical settings. The Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) is one of the most frequently used measures of dimensional ASD symptoms. In order to investigate the overlap of autism and anxiety on the SRS, we compared three groups of adults (an ASD group, n = 40; a high anxious group, n = 56; and a typical comparison group, n = 29) using the new Adult Self Report version of the SRS-2nd Edition (SRS-2-ASR) alongside a battery of anxiety questionnaires. Based on previous research with children from the parent-report SRS (first edition), we hypothesized that the SRS-2-ASR would have difficulty discriminating between the ASD and high anxious groups. Results showed that both these clinical groups scored significantly higher on the SRS than a typical control group. Discriminant validity was poor, including sensitivity of 0.65 when including all participants and 0.48 when only the two clinical groups were included. In particular, the Social Motivation subscale of the SRS-ASR failed to distinguish between ASD and anxiety groups. As recommended in the SRS-2 manual, we highlight the need for caution when using the SRS-2-ASR to support diagnostic decision making, especially in clinical settings involving anxiety, ADHD, or other concerns that can affect reciprocal social communication and/or behavioral flexibility.

Database: Medline

Autism spectrum disorder in sub-saharan africa: A comprehensive scoping review.

Author(s): Franz, Lauren; Chambers, Nola; von Isenburg, Megan; de Vries, Petrus J
Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is recognized as a global public health concern, yet almost everything we know about ASD comes from high-income countries. Here we performed a scoping review of all research on ASD ever published in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in order to identify ASD knowledge gaps in this part of the world. Fifty-three publications met inclusion criteria. Themes included the phenotype, genetics and risk factors for ASD in SSA, screening and diagnosis, professional knowledge, interventions for ASD, parental perceptions, and social-cognitive neuroscience. No epidemiological, early intervention, school-based or adult studies were identified. For each identified theme, we aimed to summarize results and make recommendations to fill the knowledge gaps. The quality of study methodologies was generally not high. Few studies used standardized diagnostic instruments, and intervention studies were typically small-scale. Overall, findings suggest a substantial need for large-scale clinical, training, and research programmes to improve the lives of people who live with ASD in SSA. However, SSA also has the potential to make unique and globally-significant contributions to the etiology and treatments of ASD through implementation, interventional, and comparative genomic science.

Database: Medline

A pilot study of serotonergic modulation after long-term administration of oxytocin in autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Hirosawa, Tetsu; Kikuchi, Mitsuru; Ouchi, Yasuomi; Takahashi, Tetsuya; Yoshimura, Yuko; Kosaka, Hirota; Furutani, Naoki; Hiraishi, Hiroshi; Fukai, Mina; Yokokura, Masamichi; Yoshikawa, Etsui; Bunai, Tomoyasus; Minabe, Yoshio
Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: Oxytocin (OT) and the serotonergic system putatively play important roles in autism spectrum disorder (ASD) etiology and symptoms, but no direct neurobiological evidence exists for long-term OT administration effects on the brain's serotonergic system. This pilot study examined 10 male participants with ASD who were administered OT intranasally for 8-10 weeks in an open-label, single-arm, nonrandomized, and uncontrolled manner. Positron emission tomography (PET) with a radiotracer (11 C)-3-amino-4-(2-[(dimethylamino)methyl]phenylthio)benzonitrile (11 C-DASB) was used before and after OT treatment. The binding potential of serotonin transporter (11 C-DASB BPND) was then estimated. The main outcome measures were changes in 11 C-DASB BPND and their correlation with changes in symptoms. ASD participants showed significantly elevated 11 C-DASB BPND in the left inferior frontal gyrus extending to the left middle frontal gyrus. No significant correlation was found between the change in
any clinical symptom and the change in 11 C-DASB BPND. This report of a pilot study is the first describing long-term effects of OT on the brain’s serotonin system in ASD. Additional randomized controlled studies must be conducted to confirm whether activation of the serotonergic system contributes to the prosocial effect of OT in people with ASD.

Database: Medline

'Form is easy, meaning is hard' revisited: (re) characterizing the strengths and weaknesses of language in children with autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Naigles, Letitia R; Tek, Saime

Source: Wiley interdisciplinary reviews. Cognitive science; Mar 2017

Abstract: Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) demonstrate impairments in social interaction and communication, and in repetitive/stereotypical behaviors. The degree to which children with ASD also manifest impairments in structural language-such as lexicon and grammar—is currently quite controversial. We reframe this controversy in terms of Naigles’ (Naigles, Cognition 2002, 86: 157-199) ‘form is easy, meaning is hard’ thesis, and propose that the social difficulties of children with ASD will lead the meaning-related components of their language to be relatively more impaired than the form-related components. Our review of the extant literature supports this proposal, with studies (1) reporting that children with ASD demonstrate significant challenges in the areas of pragmatics and lexical/semantic organization and (2) highlighting their good performance on grammatical assessments ranging from wh-questions to reflexive pronouns. Studies on children with ASD who might have a co-morbid grammatical impairment are discussed in light of the absence of relevant lexical-semantic data from the same children. Most importantly, we present direct comparisons of assessments of lexical/semantic organization and grammatical knowledge from the same children from our laboratory, all of which find more children at a given age demonstrating grammatical knowledge than semantic organization. We conclude with a call for additional research in which in-depth grammatical knowledge and detailed semantic organization are assessed in the same children. For further resources related to this article, please visit the WIREs website.

Database: Medline

Autism genetics: opportunities and challenges for clinical translation.

Author(s): Vorstman, Jacob A S; Parr, Jeremy R; Moreno-De-Luca, Daniel; Anney, Richard J L; Nurnberger, John I; Hallmayer, Joachim F

Source: Nature reviews. Genetics; Mar 2017

Abstract: Genetic studies have revealed the involvement of hundreds of gene variants in autism. Their risk effects are highly variable, and they are frequently related to other conditions besides autism. However, many different variants converge on common biological pathways. These findings indicate that aetiological heterogeneity, variable penetrance and genetic pleiotropy are pervasive characteristics of autism genetics. Although this advancing insight should improve clinical care, at present there is a substantial discrepancy between research knowledge and its clinical application. In this Review, we discuss the current challenges and opportunities for the translation of autism genetics knowledge into clinical practice.

Database: Medline

Whole genome sequencing resource identifies 18 new candidate genes for autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): C Yuen, Ryan K; Merico, Daniele; Bookman, Matt; L Howe, Jennifer; Thiruvahindrapuram, Bhooma; Patel, Rohan V; Whitney, Joe; Deflaux, Nicole; Bingham, Jonathan; Wang, Zhuozhi; Pellecchia, Giovanna; Buchanan, Janet A; Walker, Susan; Marshall, Christian R; Uddin, Mohammed; Zarrei, Mehdi; Deneault, Eric; D’Abate, Lia; Chan, Ada J S; Koyanagi, Stephanie; Paton, Tara; Pereira, Sergio L; Hoang, Ny; Engchuan, Worrawaat; Higginbotham, Edward J; Ho, Karen; Lamoureux, Sylvia; Li, Wei; MacDonald, Jeffrey R; Nalpathamkalam, Thomas; Sung, Wilson W L; Tsoi, Fiona J; Wei, John; Xu, Lizhen; Tasse, Anne-Marie; Kirby, Emily; Van Etten, William; Twigger, Simon; Roberts, Wendy; Drmic, Irene; Jilderda, Sanne; Modi, Bonnie MacKinnon; Kellam, Barbara; Szego, Michael; Cytrynbaum, Cheryl; Weksberg, Rosanna; Zwaigenbaum, Lonnie; Woodbury-Smith, Marc; Brian, Jessica; Senman, Lili; Iaboni, Alana; Doyle-Thomas, Krissy; Thompson, Ann; Chrysler, Christina; Leef, Jonathan; Savion-Lemieux, Tal; Smith, Isabel M; Liu, Xudong; Nicolson, Rob; Seifer, Vicki; Fedele, Angie; Cook, Edwin H; Dager, Stephen; Estes, Annette; Gallagher, Louise; Malow, Beth A; Parr, Jeremy R; Spence, Sarah J; Vorstman, Jacob; Frey, Brendan J; Robinson, James T; Strug, Lisa J; Fernandez, Bridget A; Elsabbagh, Mayada; Carter, Melissa
Abstract: We are performing whole-genome sequencing of families with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to build a resource (MSSNG) for subcategorizing the phenotypes and underlying genetic factors involved. Here we report sequencing of 5,205 samples from families with ASD, accompanied by clinical information, creating a database accessible on a cloud platform and through a controlled-access internet portal. We found an average of 73.8 de novo single nucleotide variants and 12.6 de novo insertions and deletions or copy number variations per ASD subject. We identified 18 new candidate ASD risk genes and found that participants bearing mutations in susceptibility genes had significantly lower adaptive ability (P = 6 × 10^-4). In 294 of 2,620 (11.2%) of ASD cases, a molecular basis could be determined and 7.2% of these carried copy number variations and/or chromosomal abnormalities, emphasizing the importance of detecting all forms of genetic variation as diagnostic and therapeutic targets in ASD.

Database: Medline

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**Brief Report: The ADOS Calibrated Severity Score Best Measures Autism Diagnostic Symptom Severity in Pre-School Children.**

**Author(s):** Wiggins, Lisa D; Barger, Brian; Moody, Eric; Soke, Gnakub; Pandey, Juhi; Levy, Susan

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** The severity of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is often measured by co-occurring conditions, such as intellectual disability or language delay, rather than deficits in social interaction, and restricted interests and repetitive behaviors. The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule calibrated severity score (ADOS CSS) was created to facilitate comparison of the diagnostic features of ASD independent of related conditions over time. We examined the relationship between the ADOS CSS, ADOS total score, and clinician rated degree of impairment (DOI) in the Study to Explore Early Development. Like others, we confirmed that, among the measures we evaluated, the ADOS CSS was least influenced by developmental functioning and demographic factors and is therefore the best measure of core features of ASD in pre-school children.

**Database:** Medline

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**Expressive Incoherence and Alexithymia in Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

**Author(s):** Costa, Andreia P; Steffgen, Georges; Samson, Andrea C

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** Expressive incoherence can be implicated in socio-emotional communicative problems in autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The present study examined expressive incoherence in 37 children with ASD and 41 typically developing (TD) children aged 3-13 years old during a frustration task. The role of alexithymia in expressive incoherence was also assessed. Compared to TD children, children with ASD had higher expressive incoherence, such as more neutral and positive emotion expressions during negative behaviors, but not in the expression of negative emotions during positive behaviors. Further analyses revealed that alexithymia moderated the expressions of positive emotions during negative behaviors. These results suggest that children with ASD may benefit from interventions targeting alexithymia to increase emotional coherence, which may improve socio-emotional communication.

**Database:** Medline

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**Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor in Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

**Author(s):** Fluegge, Keith

**Source:** JAMA pediatrics; Mar 2017

**Database:** Medline

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**Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor in Autism Spectrum Disorder-Reply.**

**Author(s):** Qin, Xiao-Yan; Cheng, Yong

**Source:** JAMA pediatrics; Mar 2017

**Database:** Medline

**Author(s):** Cuomo, Belinda M; Vaz, Sharmila; Lee, Elinda Ai Lim; Thompson, Craig; Rogerson, Jessica M; Falkmer, Torbjorn

**Source:** Pharmacotherapy; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** Sleep problems are common in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This meta-synthesis collated eight previously published systematic reviews examining the efficacy of sleep interventions in children with ASD in an attempt to present a clear analysis of trialed interventions. The collated reviews consider five major groups of sleep interventions for children with ASD: melatonin therapy, pharmacologic treatments other than melatonin, behavioral interventions, parent education/education programs, and alternative therapies (massage therapy, aromatherapy, and multivitamin and iron supplementation). These eight reviews were based on 38 original studies and address the efficacy of interventions across 17 sleep problem domains. The results of this meta-synthesis suggest that no single intervention is effective across all sleep problems in children with ASD. However, melatonin, behavioral interventions, and parent education/education program interventions appear the most effective at ameliorating multiple domains of sleep problems compared with other interventions. Due to the heterogeneous causative factors and presentations of disordered sleep, further research into the effectiveness of sleep interventions may target specific phenotypic subgroups rather than a broad analysis across the general ASD population. Similarly, future research needs to consider the efficacy of different polytherapeutic approaches in order to provide clinicians with evidence to inform best practice. In the meantime, this review supports clinicians' decision making for a majority of the identified sleep problems in the ASD population.

**Database:** Medline

Predicting Intentional Communication in Preverbal Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Author(s):** Sandbank, Micheal; Woynaroski, Tiffany; Watson, Linda R; Gardner, Elizabeth; Keçeli Kaysili, Bahar; Yoder, Paul

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** Intentional communication has previously been identified as a value-added predictor of expressive language in preverbal preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder. In the present study, we sought to identify value-added predictors of intentional communication. Of five theoretically-motivated putative predictors of intentional communication measured early in the study (at study entry and 4 months after), three had significant zero-order correlations with later intentional communication (12 months after study entry) and were thus added to a linear model that predicted later intentional communication scores controlling for initial intentional communication scores at study entry. After controlling for initial intentional communication, early motor imitation was the only predictor that accounted for a significant amount of variance in children's later intentional communication.

**Database:** Medline


**Author(s):** Freeman, Laura MacMullen; Locke, Jill; Rotheram-Fuller, Erin; Mandell, David

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** There is a paucity of literature examining the relationship between executive and social functioning in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Twenty-three school-aged children with ASD participated. Executive functioning was measured using the Developmental Neuropsychological Assessment, Second Edition and Differential Ability Scales, Second Edition, and the teacher-rated Behavior Rating of Inventory of Executive Function. Independent assessors observed children's social functioning on the playground while children with ASD and their peers completed a survey to measure peer friendships and rejections. Overall, poorer executive functioning was associated with increased playground isolation and less engagement with peers. This suggests that metacognitive skills such as initiation, working memory, and planning and organization are associated with children's social functioning.

**Database:** Medline

**Author(s):** Bishop, Somer L; Farmer, Cristan; Bal, Vanessa; Robinson, Elise B; Willsey, A Jeremy; Werling, Donna M; Havdahl, Karoline Alexandra; Sanders, Stephan J; Thurm, Audrey

**Source:** The American journal of psychiatry; Mar 2017 ; p. appiajp201716101115

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Available in print at Education Centre Library - Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust - from American Journal of Psychiatry

**Abstract:** OBJECTIVE Aside from features associated with risk of neurogenetic syndromes in general (e.g., cognitive impairment), limited progress has been made in identifying phenotype-genotype relationships in autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The objective of this study was to extend work in the Simons Simplex Collection by comparing the phenotypic profiles of ASD probands with or without identified de novo loss of function mutations or copy number variants in high-confidence ASD-associated genes or loci. METHOD Analyses preemptively accounted for documented differences in sex and IQ in affected individuals with de novo mutations by matching probands with and without these genetic events on sex, IQ, and age before comparing them on multiple behavioral domains. RESULTS Children with de novo mutations (N=112) had a greater likelihood of motor delay during early development (later age at walking), but they were less impaired on certain measures of ASD core symptoms (parent-rated social communication abnormalities and clinician-rated diagnostic certainty about ASD) in later childhood. These children also showed relative strengths in verbal and language abilities, including a smaller discrepancy between nonverbal and verbal IQ and a greater likelihood of having achieved fluent language (i.e., regular use of complex sentences). CONCLUSIONS Children with ASD with de novo mutations may exhibit a "muted" symptom profile with respect to social communication and language deficits relative to those with ASD with no identified genetic abnormalities. Such findings suggest that examining early milestone differences and standardized testing results may be helpful in etiologic efforts, and potentially in clinical differentiation of various subtypes of ASD, but only if developmental and demographic variables are properly accounted for first.

**Database:** Medline


**Author(s):** Zhou, Bingrui; Zhou, Hao; Wu, Lijie; Zou, Xiaobing; Luo, Xuerong; Fombonne, Eric; Wang, Yi; Yan, Weili; Xu, Xiu

**Source:** Neuroscience bulletin; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** The reported prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has been increasing rapidly in many parts of the world. However, data on its prevalence in China are largely missing. Here, we assessed the suitability of the modified Chinese version of a newly-developed ASD screening tool, the Modified Chinese Autism Spectrum Rating Scales (MC-ASRS) in screening for ASD in Chinese children aged 6-12 years, through comparison with the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) that has been widely used for ASD screening. We recruited the parents/caregivers of 1588 typically-developing children and 190 children with ASD aged 6-12 years to complete the MC-ASRS and SRS, and evaluated the validity of both scales in discriminating children with ASD from those developing typically. The results showed that MC-ASRS performed as well as SRS in sensitivity, specificity, and area-under-the-curve (both >0.95) in receiver operating characteristic analysis, with a fair false-negative rate. These results suggest that MC-ASRS is a promising tool for screening for children with ASD in the general Chinese population.

**Database:** Medline

Erratum to: Reactive aggression among children with and without autism spectrum disorder.

**Author(s):** Kaartinen, Miia; Puura, Kaija; Helminen, Mika; Salmelin, Raili; Pelkonen, Erja; Juujärvi, Petri

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Database:** Medline
An Italian Prospective Experience on the Association Between Congenital Cytomegalovirus Infection and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Author(s): Garofoli, Francesca; Lombardi, Giuseppina; Orcesi, Simona; Pisoni, Camilla; Mazzucchelli, Iolanda; Angelini, Micol; Balottin, Umberto; Stronati, Mauro

Source: Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

Abstract: The aim of this retrospective study, with prospective data collection, was to correlate congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and to define its prevalence. Seventy proven congenitally-infected infants, born between 2007 and 2012, were referred to our centre for CMV diagnosis and follow-up, which consisted of a consolidated protocol allowing an early evaluation of autism. We considered four children 2-year old, two of whom, at the age of 3, were diagnosed with ASD demonstrating a 2-3 fold higher prevalence (2.86%), than that in general Italian population (0.66-1.36%). Our protocol enabled us to make the earliest diagnosis and highlight the role of the virus among other causes of autism, which may be a long term sequela of congenital CMV.

Database: Medline

Assessment of Autistic Traits in Children Aged 2 to 4½ Years With the Preschool Version of the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS-P): Findings from Japan.

Author(s): Stickley, Andrew; Tachibana, Yoshiyuki; Hashimoto, Keiji; Haraguchi, Hideyuki; Miyake, Atsuko; Morokuma, Seiichi; Nitta, Hiroshi; Oda, Masako; Ohya, Yukihiro; Senju, Ayako; Takahashi, Hitoshi; Yamagata, Takanori; Kamio, Yoko

Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: The recent development and use of autism measures for the general population has led to a growing body of evidence which suggests that autistic traits are distributed along a continuum. However, as most existing autism measures were designed for use in children older than age 4, to date, little is known about the autistic continuum in children younger than age 4. As autistic symptoms are evident in the first few years, to address this research gap, the current study tested the preschool version of the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS-P) in children aged 2 to 4½ years in clinical (N = 74, average age 40 months, 26-51 months) and community settings (N = 357, average age 39 months, 25-50 months) in Japan. Using information obtained from different raters (mothers, other caregivers, and teachers) it was found that the scale demonstrated a good degree of internal consistency, inter-rater reliability and test-retest reliability, and a satisfactory degree of convergent validity for the clinical sample when compared with scores from diagnostic "gold standard" autism measures. Receiver operating characteristic analyses and the group comparisons also showed that the SRS-P total score discriminated well between children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and those without ASD. Importantly, this scale could identify autistic symptoms or traits distributed continually across the child population at this age irrespective of the presence of an ASD diagnosis. These findings suggest that the SRS-P might be a sensitive instrument for case identification including subthreshold ASD, as well as a potentially useful research tool for exploring ASD endophenotypes.

Database: Medline

Perceived social support in adults with autism spectrum disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Author(s): Alvarez-Fernandez, Sonia; Brown, Hallie R; Zhao, Yihong; Raithel, Jessica A; Bishop, Somer L; Kern, Sarah B; Lord, Catherine; Petkova, Eva; Di Martino, Adriana

Source: Autism research : official journal of the International Society for Autism Research; Mar 2017

Abstract: Perceived social support (PSS) has been related to physical and mental well-being in typically developing individuals, but systematic characterizations of PSS in autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are limited. We compared self-report ratings of the multidimensional scale of PSS (MSPSS) among age- and IQ-matched groups of adults (18-58 years) with cognitively high-functioning ASD (N = 41), or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD; N = 69), and neurotypical controls (NC; N = 69). Accompanying group comparisons, we used machine learning random forest (RF) analyses to explore predictors among a range of psychopathological and socio-emotional variables. Relative to both ADHD and NC, adults with ASD showed lower MSPSS ratings, specifically for the friends subscale (MSPSS-f). Across ASD and ADHD, interindividual differences in autism severity, affective empathy, symptoms of anxiety related to social interactions, hyperactivity/impulsivity, and somatization best predicted MSPSS-f. These relationships did
not differ between clinical groups. While group comparisons demonstrated greater impairment in individuals with ASD, analyzing individuals’ characteristics revealed cross-diagnoses similarities in regard to their MSPSS-f relationships. This is consistent with the Research Domain Criteria framework, supporting a trans-diagnostic approach as on the path toward “precision medicine.”

Database: Medline


Author(s): Lim, Kit Kwan; Chong, Wan Har

Source: The American journal of orthopsychiatry; Mar 2017

Available in full text at American Journal of Orthopsychiatry - from ProQuest

Abstract: Substantial empirical evidence has highlighted the psychological stress and negative well-being of parents whose children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It also indicated a need for understanding the mechanisms through which parents come to successfully meet the challenges of caregiving for these children whose condition are often characterized by persistent behavioral, social, and communication problems. This study seeks to explore the relationships between benefit finding and parental well-being and aims to bridge the research gaps in 3 ways. First, it seeks to examine the nature of relationships between benefit finding and parent positive and negative affect among parents whose children have ASD or other special needs. Second, we posit that this relationship would be moderated by the presence of ASD in the child. Third, we hypothesize that this moderation may vary with the children's age. Three hundred and 2 parents responded to a self-report questionnaire. Specifically, for parents of children who are non-ASD, higher levels of perceived benefit finding were found to be associated with lower levels of negative affect, and this holds for those with young children below 7 years of age. For parents having a child with ASD, perceiving high or low levels of benefit did not mitigate their negative feelings regardless of the child's age. The latter findings on the moderating effect of ASD diagnosis were unexpected and inconsistent with current research indications. These were discussed in the light of the literature, with potential implications for future research and practice.

Database: Medline


Author(s): Elias, Rebecca; White, Susan W

Source: Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

Abstract: Understanding the needs of adolescents and emerging adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with respect to transition to postsecondary education is critical to development of user-informed transition programming. Parents of adolescents and emerging adults with ASD (n = 52) and ADHD (n = 47) completed an online survey. Social interaction training and independent living training were services frequently requested by parents in the ASD group. Additionally, parents of postsecondary students with ASD endorsed distinct challenges with self-advocacy, managing emotions, and managing personal/adaptive skills relative to postsecondary students with ADHD. The profile of parent-reported difficulties and needed services compared to transition to postsecondary education for students with ASD is distinguishable from that for ADHD, suggesting individualized transition planning and in-college supports.

Database: Medline

A Causal and Mediation Analysis of the Comorbidity Between Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Author(s): Sokolova, Elena; Oerlemans, Anoek M; Rommelse, Nanda N; Groot, Perry; Hartman, Catharina A; Glennon, Jeffrey C; Claassen, Tom; Heskes, Tom; Buitelaar, Jan K

Source: Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

Abstract: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are often comorbid. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationships between ASD and ADHD symptoms by applying causal modeling. We used a large phenotypic data set of 417 children with ASD and/or ADHD, 562 affected and unaffected siblings, and 414 controls, to infer a structural equation model using a causal discovery algorithm. Three distinct pathways between ASD and ADHD were identified: (1) from impulsivity to difficulties with understanding social information, (2) from hyperactivity to stereotypic, repetitive behavior, (3) a pairwise pathway between inattention, difficulties with understanding social information, and verbal IQ.
These findings may inform future studies on understanding the pathophysiological mechanisms behind the overlap between ASD and ADHD.

**Atypical Processing of Gaze Cues and Faces Explains Comorbidity between Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).**

**Author(s):** Groom, Madeleine J; Kochhar, Puja; Hamilton, Antonia; Liddle, Elizabeth B; Simeou, Marina; Hollis, Chris

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** This study investigated the neurobiological basis of comorbidity between autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). We compared children with ASD, ADHD or ADHD+ASD and typically developing controls (CTRL) on behavioural and electrophysiological correlates of gaze cue and face processing. We measured effects of ASD, ADHD and their interaction on the EDAN, an ERP marker of orienting visual attention towards a spatially cued location and the N170, a right-hemisphere lateralised ERP linked to face processing. We identified atypical gaze cue and face processing in children with ASD and ADHD+ASD compared with the ADHD and CTRL groups. The findings indicate a neurobiological basis for the presence of comorbid ASD symptoms in ADHD. Further research using larger samples is needed.

**ω-3 Fatty Acid Supplementation Does Not Affect Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.**

**Author(s):** Horvath, Andrea; Łukasik, Jan; Szajewska, Hania

**Source:** The Journal of nutrition; Mar 2017; vol. 147 (no. 3); p. 367-376

**Abstract:** Background: Effective treatments for the core symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are still lacking. Objective: We aimed to update the data on the effectiveness of ω-3 (n-3) fatty acid (FA) supplementation as a treatment for ASD. Methods: The Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, and EMBASE databases were systematically searched up until August 2016 with no language restrictions for randomized controlled trials (RCTs) comparing ω-3 FA supplementation with placebo or with no supplementation. Participants were children diagnosed with ASD. All functional outcome measures reported were considered. For dichotomous outcomes, the results for individual studies and pooled statistics were reported as RRs. Mean differences (MDs) were calculated for continuous outcomes. Results: Five RCTs (183 participants) were included. With 4 exceptions, there were no statistically significant differences in ASD symptoms between groups measured by validated scales. Among studies that used the Aberrant Behavior Checklist, parents' ratings indicated significant improvement in lethargy symptoms in the ω-3 FA group compared with the placebo group (2 RCTs) (pooled MD: 1.98; 95% CI: 0.32, 3.63). Among studies that used the Behavioral Assessment System for Children, parents' ratings indicated significant worsening of both externalizing behavior (2 RCTs) (pooled MD: -6.22; 95% CI: -10.9, -1.59) and social skills (1 RCT) (MD: -7; 95% CI: -13.62, -0.38) in the ω-3 FA group compared with the placebo group. One RCT reported a significant improvement in the ω-3 FA group for the daily-living component of the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale (MD: 6.2; 95% CI: 0.37, 12.03). Adverse effects were similar in both groups. Conclusions: Because of the limited number of included studies and small sample sizes, no firm conclusions can be drawn. However, the limited data currently available suggest that ω-3 FA supplementation does not enhance the performance of children with ASD.

**Bad Mothers and Monstrous Sons: Autistic Adults, Lifelong Dependency, and Sensationalized Narratives of Care.**

**Author(s):** Allen, Holly

**Source:** The Journal of medical humanities; Mar 2017; vol. 38 (no. 1); p. 63-75

**Abstract:** Sensationalized representations of autistic families in film and other media frequently feature violent encounters between mothers and sons. This essay analyzes two media stories and three films that suggest how limited-and therefore misleading-popular representations of the autism family are. Except for one of the films, these representations blame the problem of adult autistic dependency on either monstrous autism or bad mothering. Doing so elides collective social responsibility for autism care and denies the
realities that autistic adults continue to have complex dependency needs that families cannot always meet. Narratives that sensationalize youth and adults with autism or scapegoat their maternal caregivers also diminish opportunities for social inclusion and for autistic people to live fully and dependently.

**Database:** Medline

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**Response to Electroconvulsive Therapy in Patients With Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intractable Challenging Behaviors Associated With Symptoms of Catatonia.**

**Author(s):** Sajith, Sreedharan Geetha; Liew, Siew Fai; Tor, Phern Chern

**Source:** The journal of ECT; Mar 2017; vol. 33 (no. 1); p. 63-67

**Abstract:** BACKGROUND: There are several reports of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) used in autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the context of catatonic symptoms. We describe response to ECT in two adults with ASD and intellectual disability with intractable aggression and self-injurious behaviors associated with catatonic symptoms who had not responded to standard interventions. METHOD: Unilateral ECT at a frequency of 3 times a week was given followed by weekly maintenance ECT. RESULTS: Patients' catatonic symptoms included episodes of agitation and echophenomena. Electroconvulsive therapy resulted in significant improvement in their behavior problems but 1 patient relapsed when the ECT was discontinued or frequency of treatment reduced. The second patient required 2 courses of ECT before improvement which was maintained on weekly ECT. CONCLUSIONS: Electroconvulsive therapy could be a potentially beneficial intervention in patients with ASD and severe challenging behaviors associated with catatonic symptoms including agitated or excited forms of catatonia.

**Database:** Medline

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**Treatment of Severe Self-Injurious Behavior in Autism Spectrum Disorder by Neuromodulation.**

**Author(s):** D'Agati, Douglas; Chang, Andrew D; Wachtel, Lee E; Reti, Irving M

**Source:** The journal of ECT; Mar 2017; vol. 33 (no. 1); p. 7-11

**Abstract:** An increasing number of case reports and series document the safe and effective use of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) in children, adolescents, and young adults with autism spectrum disorder who engage in severe, intractable, repetitive self-injurious behavior (SIB) without environmental or operant function. Although this treatment is very effective for such patients, they typically remain highly dependent on frequent maintenance ECT (M-ECT) to maintain suppression of the SIB achieved during the acute course. Some patients receive M-ECT as frequently as once every 5 days. Such a regimen is quite burdensome for the patient and the patient's family, and the long-term effects of such regimens, starting as early as childhood, are unknown. In this review, we explore the expanding literature supporting the use of ECT for suppressing severe SIB associated with autism spectrum disorder. We also focus on the possible development of alternate nonconvulsive focal forms of brain stimulation, which might replace frequent M-ECT or reduce how frequently a patient needs to receive it. Although there are scarce clinical data currently available supporting these latter treatments, future studies are clearly indicated.

**Database:** Medline

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**A randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled trial of a fixed dose of N-acetyl cysteine in children with autistic disorder.**

**Author(s):** Dean, Olivia M; Gray, Kylie M; Villagonzalo, Kristi-Ann; Dodd, Seetal; Mohebbi, Mohammadreza; Vick, Tanya; Tonge, Bruce J; Berk, Michael

**Source:** The Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry; Mar 2017; vol. 51 (no. 3); p. 241-249

**Abstract:** OBJECTIVE: Oxidative stress, inflammation and heavy metals have been implicated in the aetiology of autistic disorder. N-acetyl cysteine has been shown to modulate these pathways, providing a rationale to trial N-acetyl cysteine for autistic disorder. There are now two published pilot studies suggesting efficacy, particularly in symptoms of irritability. This study aimed to explore if N-acetyl cysteine is a useful treatment for autistic disorder. METHOD: This was a placebo-controlled, randomised clinical trial of 500 mg/day oral N-acetyl cysteine over 6 months, in addition to treatment as usual, in children with a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision diagnosis of autistic disorder. The study was conducted in Victoria, Australia. The primary outcome measures were the Social Responsiveness Scale, Children's Communication Checklist-Second Edition and the Repetitive Behavior Scale-Revised. Additionally, demographic data, the parent-completed Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales,
Social Communication Questionnaire and clinician-administered Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule were completed. RESULTS A total of 102 children were randomised into the study, and 98 (79 male, 19 female; age range: 3.1-9.9 years) attended the baseline appointment with their parent/guardian, forming the Intention to Treat sample. There were no differences between N-acetyl cysteine and placebo-treated groups on any of the outcome measures for either primary or secondary endpoints. There was no significant difference in the number and severity of adverse events between groups. CONCLUSION This study failed to demonstrate any benefit of adjunctive N-acetyl cysteine in treating autistic disorder. While this may reflect a true null result, methodological issues particularly the lower dose utilised in this study may be confounders.

Database: Medline

Research Opportunities in the Area of People With Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Source:** The American journal of occupational therapy : official publication of the American Occupational Therapy Association; ; vol. 71 (no. 2); p. 7102400010p1

**Publication Type(s):** Journal Article

**Abstract:** The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Evidence-Based Practice Project has developed a table summarizing the research opportunities on people with autism spectrum disorder. The table provides an overview of the state of the current available evidence on interventions within the scope of occupational therapy practice and is based on the systematic reviews from the AOTA Evidence-Based Practice Guidelines Series. Researchers, students, and clinicians can use this information in developing innovative research to answer important questions within the occupational therapy field.

Database: Medline


**Author(s):** Dubois, A; Michelon, C; Rattaz, C; Zabalia, M; Baghdadi, A

**Source:** Research in development disabilities; Mar 2017; vol. 62 ; p. 238-246

**Abstract:** This study aims to broaden knowledge about pain expression and assessment in daily life situations in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The goals are to provide a description of the responses of the GED-DI, the French version of the NCCPC, and to test the internal structure validity of this scale. Thirty five children with ASD were included in this study (mean age=58months; mean developmental age=32months). The French version of the NCCPC was filled in by parents. Descriptive analysis of responses shows that children with ASD express pain through varied and common behaviours, related to different expressive markers (vocal, facial, activity, etc.). Behaviours more specific to the symptomology and disturbances of ASD are also displayed. A four-factor solution (negative emotional reaction, idiosyncratic expression, hyper-vigilance reaction, pain expression) emerges from an exploratory factor analysis that explains 54.4% of the total variance. Correlation coefficients show good psychometric qualities in terms of internal consistency, factorial validity and discriminant validity. This study provides new data about pain expression in daily life situations and shows that the French version of NCCPC adjusted to ASD children is relevant to assess pain in daily life situations.

Database: Medline

Communication deficits and avoidance of angry faces in children with autism spectrum disorder.

**Author(s):** García-Blanco, Ana; López-Soler, Concepción; Vento, Máximo; García-Blanco, María Carmen; Gago, Belén; Perea, Manuel

**Source:** Research in development disabilities; Mar 2017; vol. 62 ; p. 218-226

**Abstract:** BGBACKGROUND Understanding how emotional faces are processed is important to help characterize the social deficits in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). AMSWe examined: (i) whether attention is modulated by emotional facial expression; (ii) the time course of the attentional preferences (short vs. long stimulus presentation rates); and (iii) the association between attentional biases and autistic symptomatology. METHOD AND PROCEDURES We applied a dot-probe experiment with emotional faces (happy, sad, and angry). The sample was composed of ASD children without additional language and/or intellectual impairments (n=29) and age-matched Typically Developing (TD) children (n=29).OUTCOMES AND RESULTS When compared to the TD group, the ASD group showed an attentional bias away from
angry faces at long presentation rates. No differences between groups were found for happy or sad faces. Furthermore, correlational analyses showed that the higher avoidance of angry faces, the greater are the social communication difficulties of ASD children. The attentional bias away from angry faces may be an underlying mechanism of social dysfunction in ASD. We discuss the implications of these findings for current theories of emotional processing in ASD.

**Database:** Medline

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**What worries parents of a child with Autism? Evidence from a biomarker for chronic stress.**

**Author(s):** Bitsika, Vicki; Sharpley, Christopher F; Andronicos, Nicholas M; Agnew, Linda L

**Source:** Research in developmental disabilities; Mar 2017; vol. 62 ; p. 209-217

**Abstract:** BACKGROUND Previous studies have reported correlations between various aspects of the behaviour and symptomatology of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their parents’ self-reports of stress via standardised scales. AIMS To extend that literature, a physiological index of parental chronic stress was used instead of their self-reports-dysregulation of the Diurnal Rhythm (DR) of the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal (HPA) axis. METHOD SA sample of 149 parents of a child with ASD provided salivary cortisol at the predicted time of daily maximum cortisol concentration and at a time of daily lower concentration. Adherence to the predicted DR was assessed via a dichotomous (present/not-present) as well as a continuous measure, and MANOVA and linear regression were used to detect significant associations between ASD-related variables in their children and parents' DR. RESULTS Identified only a single significant correlate of DR dysregulation in both statistical procedures-Self-Injurious Behaviour (SIB) exhibited by their child and observed by the parents. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS These findings extend previous data using self-report indices of parental stress and should be included in parent-support settings to alert parents to the long-term health effects of the stress they experience in regard to their child’s SIB.

**Database:** Medline

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**Sibling relationship quality and psychosocial outcomes among adult siblings of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and individuals with intellectual disability without autism.**

**Author(s):** Tomeny, Theodore S; Ellis, Brandi M; Rankin, James A; Barry, Tammy D

**Source:** Research in developmental disabilities; Mar 2017; vol. 62 ; p. 104-114

**Abstract:** Research on adult typically-developing (TD) siblings of individuals with developmental disabilities remains limited, and outcomes for TD siblings appear to vary widely. For the current study, 82 adult TD siblings of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or intellectual disability (ID) completed questionnaires about themselves and their affected sibling. Results of this study suggest that the attitudes possessed by adult TD siblings are important to consider when understanding adult TD sibling outcomes. Specifically, data indicate that higher levels of positive sibling relationship attitudes are related to TD siblings providing more aid/support to their sibling with a disability, along with having higher levels of general life satisfaction, and negatively related to levels of stress and depressive symptoms among TD siblings. Consistent with previous child research, siblings of individuals with ASD reported fewer positive sibling relationship attitudes compared to siblings of individuals with ID. Finally, group membership related to aid provided, depressive symptoms, and stress of TD siblings indirectly through sibling relationship attitudes. Overall, results indicate that sibling relationship attitudes may be particularly important to consider when conceptualizing sibling relationships when one sibling has an intellectual or developmental disability.

**Database:** Medline

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**Use of antipsychotics, benzodiazepine derivatives, and dementia medication among older people with intellectual disability and/or autism spectrum disorder and dementia.**

**Author(s):** Axmon, Anna; Kristensson, Jimmie; Ahlström, Gerd; Midlöv, Patrik

**Source:** Research in developmental disabilities; Mar 2017; vol. 62 ; p. 50-57

**Abstract:** BACKGROUND Although people with intellectual disability (ID) and people with dementia have high drug prescription rates, there is a lack of studies investigating drug use among those with concurrent diagnoses of ID and dementia. AIM To investigate the use of antipsychotics, benzodiazepine derivatives, and drugs recommended for dementia treatment (anticholinesterases [AChEIs] and memantine) among people with ID and dementia. METHODS AND PROCEDURES Having received support available for people with ID and/or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) was used as a proxy for ID. The ID cohort consisted
of 7936 individuals, aged at least 55 years in 2012, and the referent cohort of age- and sex-matched people from the general population (gPop). People with a specialists' diagnosis of dementia during 2002-2012 were identified (ID, n=180; gPop, n=67), and data on prescription of the investigated drugs during the period 2006-2012 were collected. OUTCOME AND RESULTS People with ID/ASD and dementia were more likely than people with ID/ASD but without dementia to be prescribed antipsychotics (50% vs 39% over the study period; odds ratio (OR) 1.85, 95% confidence interval 1.13-3.03) and benzodiazepine derivatives (55% vs 36%; OR 2.42, 1.48-3.98). They were also more likely than people with dementia from the general population to be prescribed antipsychotics (50% vs 25%; OR 3.18, 1.59-6.34), but less likely to be prescribed AChEIs (28% vs 45%; OR 0.32, 0.16-0.64).

Database: Medline

The association between parents' ratings of ASD symptoms and anxiety in a sample of high-functioning boys and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Author(s): Bitsika, Vicki; Sharpley, Christopher F
Source: Research in developmental disabilities; Mar 2017; vol. 63 ; p. 38-45
Abstract: BACKGROUND The relationship between symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) is complex and sometimes confounding. However, exploration of that relationship has significant potential to assist in treatment or avoidance of GAD by identifying ASD-related behaviours as 'targets' for intervention with anxious children as well as for preventative treatments that could be implemented into daily routines before children become anxious. To further understanding of this relationship, the association between parent-ratings of their sons' ASD symptoms and GAD symptoms was investigated in two samples of boys with high-functioning ASD. METHODS Parents of a sample of 90 pre-adolescent (M age=8.8yr) and 60 adolescent males (M age=14.6yr) completed the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS) and the GAD subscale of the Child and Adolescent Symptom Inventory (CASI-4 GAD) about their sons. RESULTS Pre-adolescents had significantly higher SRS scale scores than adolescents. For pre-adolescents, high levels of tension in social situations were associated with 3.5-times greater likelihood of having GAD; for adolescents, experiencing difficulty in changes in routine was associated with a 10-fold increase in risk of GAD. CONCLUSIONS In addition to focussing upon GAD itself, preventative and treatment options aimed at reducing GAD or its risk might profitably recognise and focus upon these two aspects of ASD that are different across the two age groups but each of which was significantly associated with GAD severity and prevalence in this study.

Database: Medline


Author(s): Stokes, M A; Kornienko, L; Scheeren, A M; Koot, H M; Begeer, S
Source: Quality of life research : an international journal of quality of life aspects of treatment, care and rehabilitation; Mar 2017; vol. 26 (no. 3); p. 611-624
Abstract: PURPOSE Children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are understood to experience a reduced quality of life compared to typically developing (TD) peers. The evidence to support this has largely been derived from proxy reports, in turn which have been evaluated by Cronbach's alpha and interrater reliability, neither of which demonstrate unidimensionality of scales, or that raters use the instruments consistently. To redress this, we undertook an evaluation of the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory™ (PedsQL), a widely used measure of children's quality of life. Three questions were explored: (1). do TD children or adolescents and their parents use the PedsQL differently; (2). do children or adolescents with ASD and their parents use the PedsQL differently, and (3). do children or adolescents with ASD and TD children or adolescents use the PedsQL differently? By using the scales differently, we mean whether respondents endorse items differently contingent by group. METHODS We recruited 229 children and adolescents with ASD who had an IQ greater than 70, and one of their parents, as well as 74 TD children or adolescents and one of their parents. Children and adolescents with ASD (aged 6-20 years) were recruited from special primary and secondary schools in the Amsterdam region. Children and adolescents were included based on an independent clinical diagnosis established prior to recruitment according to DSM-IV-TR criteria by psychiatrists and/or psychologists, qualified to make the diagnosis. Children or adolescents and parents completed their respective version of the PedsQL. RESULTS Data were analysed for unidimensionality and for differential item functioning (DIF) across respondent for TD children and adolescents and their parents, for children and adolescents with ASD and their parents, and then last, children and adolescents with ASD were compared to TD children and adolescents for DIF.
Following recoding the data, the unidimensional model was found to fit all groups. We found that parents of and TD children and adolescents do not use the PedsQL differently ([Formula: see text] = 64.86, p = ns), consistent with the literature that children and adolescents with ASD and TD children and adolescents use the PedsQL similarly ([Formula: see text] = 92.22, p = ns), though their score levels may differ. However, children and adolescents with ASD and their parents respond to the PedsQL differently ([Formula: see text] = 190.22, p < 0.001) and contingently upon features of the child or adolescent. CONCLUSIONS We suggest this is due to children or adolescents with ASD being less forthcoming with their parents about their lives. This, however, will require additional research to confirm. Consequently, we conclude that parents of high-functioning children with ASD are unable to act as reliable proxies for their children with ASD.

Database: Medline

Shared atypical brain anatomy and intrinsic functional architecture in male youth with autism spectrum disorder and their unaffected brothers.

Author(s): Lin, H-Y; Tseng, W-Y I; Lai, M-C; Chang, Y-T; Gau, S S-F

Source: Psychological medicine; Mar 2017; vol. 47 (no. 4); p. 639-654

Available in full text at Psychological Medicine - from ProQuest

Abstract: BACKGROUND Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a highly heritable neurodevelopmental disorder, yet the search for definite genetic etiologies remains elusive. Delineating ASD endophenotypes can boost the statistical power to identify the genetic etiologies and pathophysiology of ASD. We aimed to test for endophenotypes of neuroanatomy and associated intrinsic functional connectivity (iFC) via contrasting male youth with ASD, their unaffected brothers and typically developing (TD) males. METHOD The 94 participants (aged 9-19 years) - 20 male youth with ASD, 20 unaffected brothers and 54 TD males - received clinical assessments, and undertook structural and resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging scans. Voxel-based morphometry was performed to obtain regional gray and white matter volumes. A seed-based approach, with seeds defined by the regions demonstrating atypical neuroanatomy shared by youth with ASD and unaffected brothers, was implemented to derive iFC. General linear models were used to compare brain structures and iFC among the three groups. Assessment of familiality was investigated by permutation tests for variance of the within-family pair difference. RESULTS We found that atypical gray matter volume in the mid-cingulate cortex was shared between male youth with ASD and their unaffected brothers as compared with TD males. Moreover, reduced iFC between the mid-cingulate cortex and the right inferior frontal gyrus, and increased iFC between the mid-cingulate cortex and bilateral middle occipital gyrus were the shared features of male ASD youth and unaffected brothers. CONCLUSIONS Atypical neuroanatomy and iFC surrounding the mid-cingulate cortex may be a potential endophenotypic marker for ASD in males.

Database: Medline

Investigating the accuracy of a novel telehealth diagnostic approach for autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Smith, Christopher J; Rozga, Agata; Matthews, Nicole; Oberleitner, Ron; Nazneen, Nazneen; Abowd, Gregory

Source: Psychological assessment; Mar 2017; vol. 29 (no. 3); p. 245-252

Available in full text at Psychological Assessment - from ProQuest

Abstract: Research indicates that a substantial amount of time elapses between parents' first concerns about their child's development and a formal diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Telehealth presents an opportunity to expedite the diagnostic process. This project compared a novel telehealth diagnostic approach that utilizes clinically guided in-home video recordings to the gold standard in-person diagnostic assessment. Participants included 40 families seeking an ASD evaluation for their child and 11 families of typically developing children. Children were between the ages of 18 months and 6 years 11 months; mean adaptive behavior composite = 75.47 (SD = 15.94). All parent participants spoke English fluently. Families completed the Naturalistic Observation Diagnostic Assessment (NODA) for ASD, which was compared to an in-person assessment (IPA). Agreement between the 2 methods, as well as sensitivity, specificity, and interrater reliability, were calculated for the full sample and the subsample of families seeking an ASD evaluation. Diagnostic agreement between NODA and the IPA was 88.2% (κ = 0.75) in the full sample and 85% (κ = 0.58) in the subsample. Sensitivity was 84.9% in both, whereas specificity was 94.4% in the full sample and 85.7% in the subsample. Kappa coefficients for interrater reliability indicated 85% to 90% accuracy between raters. NODA utilizes telehealth technology for families
to share information with professionals and provides a method to inform clinical judgment for a diagnosis of ASD. Due to the high level of agreement with the IPA in this sample, NODA has potential to improve the efficiency of the diagnostic process for ASD.

Database: Medline

Pharmacogenomics of autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Brown, Jacob T; Eum, Seenae; Cook, Edwin H; Bishop, Jeffrey R

Source: Pharmacogenomics; Mar 2017; vol. 18 (no. 4); p. 403-414

Abstract: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is characterized by persistent deficits in social communication and interactions as well as restricted, repetitive behaviors and interests. Pharmacologic interventions are often needed to manage irritability, aggressive behaviors and hyperactivity. Pharmacogenomic studies have investigated genetic associations with treatment response and side effects in an attempt to better understand drug mechanisms in hopes of optimizing the balance of symptom improvement versus side effects. The majority of pharmacogenomic studies to date have focused on antipsychotics, antidepressants and stimulants that are the most commonly utilized medication classes for ASD. This review is a comprehensive examination of the existing pharmacogenomic studies in ASD highlighting the current state of knowledge regarding genetic variation influencing pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, and associated clinical outcomes.

Database: Medline

Splenic Rupture and Liver Laceration in an Adolescent With Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Author(s): Neville, Desiree Noel Wagner; Marin, Jennifer R

Source: Pediatric emergency care; Mar 2017; vol. 33 (no. 3); p. 213-215

Abstract: We report a case of a 16-year-old adolescent boy with autism who presented to the pediatric emergency department after falling from a standing position, with a relatively benign examination, who was found to have significant hemoperitoneum on the focused assessment with sonography in trauma examination.

Database: Medline


Author(s): Getz, Kelly D

Source: Paediatric and perinatal epidemiology; Mar 2017; vol. 31 (no. 2); p. 166

Database: Medline

Maternal Pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index and Autism Spectrum Disorder among Offspring.

Author(s): Qin, Yue-Lan; Tang, Si-Yuan

Source: Paediatric and perinatal epidemiology; Mar 2017; vol. 31 (no. 2); p. 165

Database: Medline

Systematic review and meta-analysis of the association of Autism Spectrum Disorder in visually or hearing impaired children.

Author(s): Do, Belinda; Lynch, Paige; Macris, Elena-Marie; Smyth, Brianna; Stavrinakis, Stephanie; Quinn, Stephen; Constable, Paul A

Source: Ophthalmic & physiological optics : the journal of the British College of Ophthalmic Opticians (Optometrists); Mar 2017; vol. 37 (no. 2); p. 212-224

Abstract: PURPOSE To determine whether there is an association with a congenital visual or hearing impairment (VI or HI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in children. METHODS A systematic literature review was performed using nine relevant databases limited to peer reviewed articles in English between 1994 and January 2016. The search identified 1248 articles after duplicates were removed with subsequent screening of the abstracts excluding a further 1199, resulting in 49 full-text articles that were then independently assessed by five of the authors with a final 15 articles meeting the inclusion criteria. Bias
assessment was determined through consensus of the first five authors. A meta-analysis of the included studies was performed to estimate the relative risk of ASD in the VI and HI groups compared to the general population based on reported prevalence rates in similar geographical regions. Overall prevalence rates for ASD were calculated from the combined studies in the VI and HI populations. RESULTS The overall prevalence of ASD in VI and HI populations was 19% (95% CI 13-25%) and 9% (95% CI 6-12%) respectively. The overall risk-ratio of ASD was greater in the VI 31.0 times (95% CI 18.62-51.56; z = 13.21, p < 0.001) and HI groups 14.1 times (95% CI 3.41-58.62; z = 3.65, p < 0.001) compared to reported ASD prevalence in the general population. CONCLUSION There is a high association of ASD in VI or HI children and therefore these populations should be assessed for ASD in the presence of a visual or hearing disability.

Database: Medline

SHANK proteins: roles at the synapse and in autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Monteiro, Patricia; Feng, Guoping

Source: Nature reviews. Neuroscience; Mar 2017; vol. 18 (no. 3); p. 147-157

Abstract: Several large-scale genomic studies have supported an association between cases of autism spectrum disorder and mutations in the genes SH3 and multiple ankyrin repeat domains protein 1 (SHANK1), SHANK2 and SHANK3, which encode a family of postsynaptic scaffolding proteins that are present at glutamatergic synapses in the CNS. An evaluation of human genetic data, as well as of in vitro and in vivo animal model data, may allow us to understand how disruption of SHANK scaffolding proteins affects the structure and function of neural circuits and alters behaviour.

Database: Medline

Translational use of event-related potentials to assess circuit integrity in ASD.

Author(s): Modi, Meera E; Sahin, Mustafa

Source: Nature reviews. Neurology; Mar 2017; vol. 13 (no. 3); p. 160-170

Abstract: Deficits in social cognition are the defining characteristic of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Social cognition requires the integration of several neural circuits in a time-sensitive fashion, so impairments in social interactions could arise as a result of alterations in network connectivity. Electroencephalography (EEG) has revealed abnormalities in event related potentials (ERPs) evoked by auditory and visual sensory stimuli in humans with ASD, indicating disruption of neural connectivity. Similar abnormalities in sensory-evoked ERPs have been observed in animal models of ASD, suggesting that ERPs have the potential to provide a translational biomarker of the disorder. People with ASD also have abnormal ERPs in response to auditory and visual social stimuli, demonstrating functional disruption of the social circuit. To assess the integrity of the social circuit and characterize biomarkers of circuit dysfunction, novel EEG paradigms that use social stimuli to induce ERPs should be developed for use in animal models. The identification of a socially-relevant ERP that is consistent in animal models and humans would facilitate the development of pharmacological treatment strategies for the social impairments in ASD and other neuropsychiatric disorders.

Database: Medline

Bergmann Glia, Long-Term Depression, and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Author(s): Chrobak, Adrian Andrzej; Soltys, Zbigniew

Source: Molecular neurobiology; Mar 2017; vol. 54 (no. 2); p. 1156-1166

Abstract: Bergmann glia (BG), a specific type of radial astrocytes in the cerebellum, play a variety of vital functions in the development of this structure. However, the possible role of BG in the development of abnormalities observed in individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) seems to be underestimated. One of the most consistent findings observed in ASD patients is loss of Purkinje cells (PCs). Such a defect may be caused by dysregulation of glutamate homeostasis, which is maintained mainly by BG. Moreover, these glial cells are involved in long-term depression (LTD), a form of plasticity which can additionally subserve neuroprotective functions. The aim of presented review is to summarize the current knowledge about interactions which occur between PC and BG, with special emphasis on those which are relevant to the survival and proper functioning of cerebellar neurons.

Database: Medline
Individuals with gender dysphoria and autism: barriers to good clinical practice.

Author(s): Lehmann, K; Leavey, G

Source: Journal of psychiatric and mental health nursing; Mar 2017; vol. 24 (no. 2-3); p. 171-177

Database: Medline

Prevalence of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and its Comorbidity among Korean Children in a Community Population.

Author(s): Kim, Moon Jung; Park, Inho; Lim, Myung Ho; Paik, Ki Chung; Cho, Sungja; Kwon, Ho Jang; Lee, Sang Gyu; Yoo, Seung Jin; Ha, Mina

Source: Journal of Korean medical science; Mar 2017; vol. 32 (no. 3); p. 401-406

Abstract: The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD) in children according to socio-demographic factors and the distribution of ADHD subtypes in a community in Korea. A screening survey using the Korean version of ADHD Rating Scale (K-ARS) was conducted between 2007 and 2008, and clinical interviews by a pediatric psychiatrist were performed for selected children between 2009 and 2010. A total of 49,573 elementary school students, between ages of 7 and 12, constituted the target population, among which 38,365 students (77.2%) and respective parents gave consent to participate. Of the participants, 200 screened children were clinically examined to confirm the diagnosis of ADHD. We estimated the prevalence of ADHD and its comorbidity in the population, after adjusting for nonresponse and nonparticipation. The prevalence of ADHD was 11.7% in boys and 5.2% in girls, with an overall prevalence of 8.5%. The combined type of inattentive and hyperactive was the most frequent at 4.7% of the whole population. Children were more likely to have ADHD if their parents were separated and had less education. Most commonly combined comorbidity was autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (10.1%). The prevalence of ADHD in the school-aged population is an essential information for improving the quality of public health mental services for evaluation and treatment of ADHD.

Database: Medline

Children with autism spectrum disorder: teaching conversation involving feelings about events.

Author(s): Conallen, K; Reed, P

Source: Journal of intellectual disability research : JIDR; Mar 2017; vol. 61 (no. 3); p. 279-291

Abstract: BACKGROUND Two procedures were developed to teach individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders labels (tacts) for various private events (emotions): Study 1 attempted to distinguish them from pure tacts and mands (requests); and Study 2 attempted to train initiating a conversation with grammatically correct subject-verb-comment construction. METHODS A multiple treatment reversal design was used in both studies, followed by a probe to see if the tacts were used across novel settings. RESULTS The children were prompted to initiate a series of language exchanges, which resulted in an increased ability to participate in conversations about private events. CONCLUSIONS Together, the results of both studies suggest that, by providing an effective and reinforcing means of teaching both the function and the form of these tacts, conversations can be successfully initiated by children with ASD.

Database: Medline

Framing Autism: A Content Analysis of Five Major News Frames in U.S.-Based Newspapers.

Author(s): Wendorf Muhamad, Jessica; Yang, Fan

Source: Journal of health communication; Mar 2017; vol. 22 (no. 3); p. 190-197

Abstract: The portrayal of child autism-related news stories has become a serious issue in the United States, yet few studies address this from media framing perspective. To fill this gap in the literature, this study examined the applicability of a media framing scale (Semetko & Valkenburg, 2000) for the deductive examination of autism-related news stories in U.S.-based newspapers. Under the theoretical framework of framing theory, a content analysis of news stories (N = 413) was conducted to investigate the presence of the five news frames using an established questionnaire. Differentiating between local and national news outlets, the following five news frames were measured: (a) attribution of responsibility, (b) human interest, (c) conflict, (d) morality, and (e) economic consequences. Findings revealed that news stories about autism
most frequently fell within the human interest frame. Furthermore, the study shed light on how local and national newspapers might differ in framing autism-related news pieces and in their placement of the autism-related story within the newspaper (e.g., front page section, community section).

**Database:** Medline

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**Effects of categorical representation on visuospatial working memory in autism spectrum disorder.**

**Author(s):** Carmo, Joana C; Souza, Cristiane; Gonçalves, Filipe; Pinho, Sandra; Filipe, Carlos N; Lachmann, Thomas

**Source:** Journal of clinical and experimental neuropsychology; Mar 2017; vol. 39 (no. 2); p. 131-141

**Abstract:** We tested whether individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are impaired in visuospatial working memory or in the use of the semantic system, in particular in categorization processes at the service of working memory. The performance of high-functioning individuals with ASD (N = 21) in a visual same-different task adapted from Lachmann and van Leeuwen [e.g., Lachmann, T., & van Leeuwen, C. (2010). Representational economy, not processing speed, determines preferred processing strategy of visual patterns. Acta Psychologica, 134(3), 290-298] was compared to those of typically developed controls (N = 25). In a categorical identity task, two successive patterns had to be judged as the same if they belonged to the same equivalence set (cf. Garner, W. R., & Clement, D. E. (1963). Goodness of pattern and pattern uncertainty. Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior, 2, 446-452), including all possible rotation and reflection transformations (R&R category), and as different otherwise. In a physical identity task, only patterns that matched in both shape and orientation had to be responded to as the same; all others, including category matches, had to be classified as different. Equivalence sets had different sizes (ESS). Earlier studies showed an increase in reaction time (RT) with increasing ESS and, for the physical identity task, a response conflict for category matching. Both of these effects were interpreted as evidence for a categorical code by which individual patterns are mentally represented. Assuming that categorization processes are deficient in individuals with ASD, we expected no ESS effects and, in the physical identity task, absence of a response conflict for these individuals. In contrast, we found individuals with ASD to be generally as sensitive to ESS as controls, and they showed a response conflict in the physical identity task. Thus, categorical processing seems to be intact in ASD. However, a strong overall group effect was found in RTs: Individuals with ASD are considerably slower than controls.

**Database:** Medline

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**Executive functioning and local-global visual processing: candidate endophenotypes for autism spectrum disorder?**

**Author(s):** Van Eylen, Lien; Boets, Bart; Cosemans, Nele; Peeters, Hilde; Steyaert, Jean; Wagemans, Johan; Noens, Ilse

**Source:** Journal of child psychology and psychiatry, and allied disciplines; Mar 2017; vol. 58 (no. 3); p. 258-269

**Abstract:** BACKGROUND Heterogeneity within autism spectrum disorder (ASD) hampers insight in the etiology and stimulates the search for endophenotypes. Endophenotypes should meet several criteria, the most important being the association with ASD and the higher occurrence rate in unaffected ASD relatives than in the general population. We evaluated these criteria for executive functioning (EF) and local-global (L-G) visual processing. METHODS By administering an extensive cognitive battery which increases the validity of the measures, we examined which of the cognitive anomalies shown by ASD probands also occur in their unaffected relatives (n = 113) compared to typically developing (TD) controls (n = 100). Microarrays were performed, so we could exclude relatives from probands with a de novo mutation in a known ASD susceptibility copy number variant, thus increasing the probability that genetic risk variants are shared by the ASD relatives. An overview of studies investigating EF and L-G processing in ASD relatives was also provided. RESULTS For EF, ASD relatives - like ASD probands - showed impairments in response inhibition, cognitive flexibility and generativity (specifically, ideational fluency), and EF impairments in daily life. For L-G visual processing, the ASD relatives showed no anomalies on the tasks, but they reported more attention to detail in daily life. Group differences were similar for siblings and for parents of ASD probands, and yielded larger effect sizes in a multiplex subsample. The group effect sizes for the comparison between ASD probands and TD individuals were generally larger than those of the ASD relatives compared to TD individuals. CONCLUSIONS Impaired cognitive flexibility, ideational fluency and response inhibition are strong candidate endophenotypes for ASD. They could help to delineate
etiological more homogeneous subgroups, which is clinically important to allow assigning ASD probands to different, more targeted, interventions.

**Database: Medline**

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**A Path Model of Expressive Vocabulary Skills in Initially Preverbal Preschool Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

**Author(s):** McDaniel, Jena; Yoder, Paul; Watson, Linda R

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** We examined direct and indirect paths involving receptive vocabulary and diversity of key consonants used in communication (DKCC) to improve understanding of why previously identified value-added predictors are associated with later expressive vocabulary for initially preverbal children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD; n = 87). Intentional communication, DKCC, and parent linguistic responses accounted for unique variance in later expressive vocabulary when controlling for mid-point receptive vocabulary, but responding to joint attention did not. We did not confirm any indirect paths through mid-point receptive vocabulary. DKCC mediated the association between intentional communication and expressive vocabulary. Further research is needed to replicate the findings, test potentially causal relations, and provide a specific sequence of intervention targets for preverbal children with ASD.

**Database: Medline**

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**Awareness and Knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders Among Pharmacists: A Cross-Sectional Study in Palestinian Pharmacy Practice.**

**Author(s):** Shawahna, Ramzi; Fahed, Basel; Kadri, Dana; Sharawi, Lamees; Soroghli, Mai; Dweik, Maen

**Source:** Journal of autism and developmental disorders; Mar 2017

**Abstract:** Pharmacists are trusted and easily accessible healthcare providers. We assessed awareness and knowledge of symptoms, etiology, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among pharmacists practicing in Palestine. The pharmacists reported low familiarity with ASDs. The median score on the 12-item knowledge section was 50.0% with an interquartile range of 16.7%. Having course(s) or lecture(s) on ASDs during pharmacy degree program was significantly associated with familiarity (p value <0.001), knowledge (p value <0.001), and confidence (p value <0.05) scores. Nearly 62% of the pharmacists reported as not feeling confident enough in their ability to counsel parents about medications used for their children with ASDs and their side effects. This study revealed gaps in awareness and knowledge of ASDs among pharmacists.

**Database: Medline**

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**Knowledge-guided mutation in classification rules for autism treatment efficacy.**

**Author(s):** Engle, Kelley; Rada, Roy

**Source:** Health informatics journal; Mar 2017; vol. 23 (no. 1); p. 56-68

**Abstract:** Data mining methods in biomedical research might benefit by combining genetic algorithms with domain-specific knowledge. The objective of this research is to show how the evolution of treatment rules for autism might be guided. The semantic distance between two concepts in the taxonomy is measured by the number of relationships separating the concepts in the taxonomy. The hypothesis is that replacing a concept in a treatment rule will change the accuracy of the rule in direct proportion to the semantic distance between the concepts. The method uses a patient database and autism taxonomies. Treatment rules are developed with an algorithm that exploits the taxonomies. The results support the hypothesis. This research should both advance the understanding of autism data mining in particular and of knowledge-guided evolutionary search in biomedicine in general.

**Database: Medline**

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**Parents Taking Action: A Psycho-Educational Intervention for Latino Parents of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder.**

**Author(s):** Magaña, Sandra; Lopez, Kristina; Machalicek, Wendy

**Source:** Family process; Mar 2017; vol. 56 (no. 1); p. 59-74
Abstract: The increased prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) among Latino children, later diagnosis, limited access to bicultural specialist support, and worsened health outcomes when compared to non-Latinos points to the need for a culturally relevant parent education intervention. This pilot study examined the feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary outcomes of a culturally derived intervention, Parents Taking Action, for 19 Spanish-speaking mothers of children with ASD. This study introduces the Promotora de Salud Model of intervention delivery to the autism field. A mixed-methods design including one group pre- and posttest design and focus groups was used to evaluate the outcomes of PTA. We found that the intervention was both feasible to implement and acceptable to participants. We also found significant increases in empowerment oriented outcomes for parents between pre- and posttest suggesting that the intervention is promising. Suggestions for future research and practice are offered.

Database: Medline

Impact of ASD Traits on Treatment Outcomes of Eating Disorders in Girls.

Author(s): Stewart, Catherine S; McEwen, Fiona S; Konstantellou, Anna; Eisler, Ivan; Simic, Mima

Source: European eating disorders review : the journal of the Eating Disorders Association; Mar 2017; vol. 25 (no. 2); p. 123-128

Abstract: Evidence links high levels of Autism Spectrum Disorder Traits in women with chronicity of anorexia nervosa. This study reports through clinical audit the impact of ASD traits on treatment outcomes of girls who were referred for treatment in a specialist eating disorder service. Presence of current, but not early childhood, ASD traits was elevated in comparison with previously reported community samples. Current ASD traits were correlated with emotional disorders and with need for treatment augmentation (psychiatric inpatient or day patient admission), but this relationship was not significant after the contribution of depression had been controlled for. There was no difference in Morgan Russell Outcomes at discharge for those with high and low current ASD traits. Parent-reported ASD-related developmental difficulties were associated with attenuated change in self-reported cognitive symptoms of AN. This study highlights the need for further understanding of the aetiology, diagnostic significance and predictive utility for future relapse of elevated ASD traits in childhood eating disorders.

Database: Medline

Decreased total antioxidant capacity has a larger effect size than increased oxidant levels in urine in individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

Author(s): Yui, Kunio; Tanuma, Nasoyuki; Yamada, Hiroshi; Kawasaki, Yohei

Source: Environmental science and pollution research international; Mar 2017

Abstract: Oxidant/antioxidant imbalance may contribute to the pathophysiology of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). We assayed urinary levels of oxidative stress related biomarkers, hexanoyl-lysine (HEL), total antioxidant capacity (TAOC), the DNA methylation biomarker 8-hydroxy-2'-deoxyguanosine (8-OHdG), and plasma levels of superoxide dismutase (SOD), which is major antioxidant enzyme. We examined the relationship between these four biomarkers and social responsiveness in 20 individuals with ASD and in 11 healthy controls. The sex (ASD group, 7/13 vs. control group, 4/7) and age distributions (ASD group, 10.7 ± 5.0 years vs. control group, 14.7 ± 6.3 years) were not significantly different between the groups. Social responsiveness was assessed using the social responsiveness scale (SRS). We used standardized regression coefficients to measure the effect size. The ASD group exhibited significantly lower urinary TAOC levels and significantly elevated urinary HEL levels than the control group. Urinary 8-OHdG levels and plasma SOD levels were not significantly different between the groups. The ASD group showed significantly higher SRS scores than the control group. Plasma SOD levels correlated significantly with urinary TAOC levels. Standardized regression coefficients revealed that TAOC levels had a larger effect size than HEL levels in urine. This study firstly reveals that an imbalance between urinary HEL and TAOC levels in favor of urinary TAOC levels may contribute to impaired social responsiveness in individuals with ASD. Plasma SOD levels may also affect urinary TAOC levels.

Database: Medline

Preparing for the future: a review of tools and strategies to support autonomous goal setting for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders.

Author(s): Hodgetts, Sandra; Park, Elly
Based on the results, we suggest that screening is implemented for both ASD and ADHD, at the age of 3 to 5 years and early school years respectively.

Interpretation: 

Findings: 17 (42%) and 14 (34%) of the 41 children met DSM criteria for ASD and ADHD respectively.

The main instruments used were the Autism Diagnostic Interview and the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System.

The study included a population-based cohort of 60 children and adolescents with Down syndrome, 41 individuals (29 males, 12 females; mean age 11y, age range 5-17y) for whom parents gave consent for participation were clinically assessed with regard to ASD and ADHD. The main instruments used were the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised, Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Swanson, Nolan, and Pelham-IV Rating Scale, and the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System-II.

RESULTS: High rates of ASD and ADHD were found: 17 (42%) and 14 (34%) of the 41 children met DSM criteria for ASD and ADHD respectively.

CONCLUSIONS: Children and youth with ASD can participate in setting rehabilitation goals, but few tools to support their participation have been evaluated, and those tools that do exist do not align well with current services foci. Visual aids appear to be one effective support, but further research on effective strategies for meaningful engagement in autonomous goal setting for children and youth with ASD is warranted. Implications for rehabilitation Persons with ASD are less self-determined than their peers. Input into one's own rehabilitation goals and priorities is an important component of self-determination. Few tools exist to help engage children and youth with ASD in setting their own rehabilitation goals. An increased focus on identifying, developing and evaluating effective tools and strategies to facilitate engagement of children and youth with ASD in setting their own rehabilitation goals is warranted.

Database: Medline

Children with autism are impaired in the understanding of teaching.

Author(s): Knutsen, John; Mandell, David S; Frye, Douglas

Prevalence of autism and attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder in Down syndrome: a population-based study.

Author(s): Oxelgren, Ulrika Wester; Myrelid, Åsa; Annerén, Göran; Ekstam, Bodil; Göransson, Cathrine; Holmbom, Agneta; Isaksson, Anne; Åberg, Marie; Gustafsson, Jan; Fernell, Elisabeth

Prevalence of autism and attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder in Down syndrome.
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Autism West Midlands Newsletter March 2017

http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=7a6d85cd8a782422ab7a3c913&id=56e271b79a&e=0699e9a39b

Curly Hair Project Events 2017

Autism and ASD Workshops in West Midlands


For information and to book, please visit: www.thegirlwiththecurlyhair.co.uk/events
Resources on the web

What is NHS Evidence?
NHS Evidence is a service that enables access to authoritative clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice through a web-based portal. It helps people from across the NHS, public health and social care sectors to make better decisions as a result. NHS Evidence is managed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

www.evidence.nhs.uk

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