

Autistic Disorder

Always

Unique

Totally

Interesting

SOMETIMES

MYSTERIOUS



DEFINITION

A pervasive developmental disorder defined by the presence of abnormal and/or impaired development that is manifest before the age of 3 years, and by the characteristic type of abnormal functioning in all three areas of social interaction, communication, and restricted, repetitive behaviour.

(International classification of disease- ICD 10)

ETIOLOGY





Genetic factors

- Family studies
- twin studies
- elevated platelet serotonin (5 HT)
- fragile X syndrome and X linked recessive disorder.

• Immunological factors

Immunological incompatibility (maternal antibodies directed at the fetus) may contribute to autism.



Prenatal factors

- Advanced maternal age
- maternal gestational bleeding
- gestational diabetes



Perinatal factors

- Umbilical cord complication
- Birth trauma
- Fetal distress
- Small for gestational age
- Low birth weight
- RH incompatibility
- Hyperbilirubinemia.



Biomarkers

- elevated serotonin
- Increased total brain volume
- Greater amygdala hyper-arousal

ICD 10 Classification



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F.84.0- CHILDHOOD AUTISM

**receptive or expressive language
as used in social communication.**

**Abnormal or impaired
development is evident
before the age of 3 years in
at least one of the following
areas**

**The development of selective
social attachments or of
reciprocal social interaction**

Functional or symbolic play.

SIGN AND SYMPTOM

Impaired social interaction & difficulty in relating with other people.



Difficulty in making eye contact



May cry alone instead of calling for mother



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May be vicious with their siblings

May strongly resist being held by, hugged and kissed by their parents and others.



Lack anticipatory posture (raising his arms) of being picked up by a caretaker.

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May show no response to interactive games like peek-a-boo



May not notice when their parent's come and go.



Dislike new experiences like birthday celebration



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Extremely difficult to bath these kids

They resist hair cuts



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Restricted, Repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests and activities.



Stare at rotating things like ceiling fans



Like spinning either self or other things like bottle



Keep things close to their face

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A simple change in routine makes them extremely anxious

Strange attachment to objects



Tendency of smearing their face even in their own faeces

TREATMENT

Interventions to manage autistic child

- **Psychosocial intervention**
- **Pharmacological intervention**
- **Nursing intervention**

Psychosocial intervention



Nursing Intervention



Nursing Diagnosis

- Risk for Self-Mutilation**
- Impaired Social Interaction**
- Impaired Verbal Communication**
- Disturbed Personal Identity**

Summary

Autism is one of the most common childhood developmental disorders, even more prevalent than Down syndrome. But because its origin is unknown and it encompasses a range of behaviors, working with a child with this disorder can be challenging. But early detection can increase the hope for better life expectancy and better adaptability of such children with their social environment.

References

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