Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)



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Etiology

Early Childhood
Child
ASD presents in early childhood, usually around the ages 2-3.

Presentation

Genetic Predisposition
Gene
ASD often presents before 3 years old and is more common in males. Research suggests that ASD also has a strong genetic predisposition, as certain genes have been associated with the condition. No specific environmental causes are linked to ASD, including no associated link between ASD and childhood vaccines.

Social and Communication Deficits
Social-book and Dysfunctional Speech-bubble
ASD can involve deficits regarding social contact and communication. These deficits can include deficient eye contact, inability to adjust to new situations or relationships, and unusual development of language skills.

Repetitive Behavior
Repetitive Behavioral-mask
ASD involves repetitive types of behaviors along with restricted interests. These repetitions and interests can include lining up toys, hand movements, and involuntary repetition of someone else's speech.

Intellectual Disability (Mental Retardation)
Book Covered in Tar
ASD can also present with intellectual and/or language disabilities.

Associations

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
AD-HeaD with ADHD
ASD is associated with several psychiatric and developmental disorders, including ADHD, epilepsy, anxiety disorders, and pica.

Treatment

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Behavioral Interventions

Behavioral-mask Interventions

Incorporating early behavioral interventions such as social and communication skills and the establishment of consistency can aid in improving the lives of people with ASD.

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI)

Selective Silver-tonic Reuptake Tube with Inhibiting-Chains

The symptoms of ASD involving anxiety and/or repetitious behavior can be addressed with the use of SSRIs.

Antipsychotics

Ant-Tie-Psychiatrist

The use of antipsychotics can prove useful if self-harm or aggression is commencing with ASD. Specifically, aripiprazole and risperidone are the only FDA-approved medications prescribed to address irritability in those with ASD.

Methylphenidate (Ritalin)

Metal-phoenix

ASD is also associated with ADHD, and in such instances, methylphenidate can be prescribed.

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