

Autism in Adults - recent items

Mark Bryant
Dermot Rowe Library
Tel: 01865 228068
E-mail: Mark.Bryant@southernhealth.nhs.uk

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DOES A DIAGNOSIS OF ASD HELP US TO HELP A PERSON WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES?

G Collins - Re-Thinking Autism: Diagnosis, Identity and Equality, 2016 -

The question this chapter will consider is: does the label of autism add anything at all to the approaches that services put together to help someone with an intellectual disability? The focus is on approaches which aim to help people by teaching them new ways of behaving ...

Individual, parent and social–environmental correlates of caregiving experiences among parents of adults with autism spectrum disorder

1. M. Burke^{1,2} and
2. T. Heller²

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Journal of Intellectual Disability Research

Special Issue: Autism Spectrum Disorder

Volume 60, Issue 5, pages 401–411, May 2016

Abstract

Introduction

Compared to parents of adults with other types of disabilities, parents of adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) experience worse well-being. Thus, it is crucial to identify the individual, parent and social–environmental correlates of caregiving experiences among parents of adults with ASD.

Method

For this study, 130 parents of adults with ASD responded to a survey about caregiving satisfaction, self-efficacy and burden.

Results

Greater future planning and community involvement related to more caregiving satisfaction and increased caregiving self-efficacy, respectively. Less choicemaking of the adult with ASD related to greater caregiving satisfaction and self-efficacy. Maladaptive behaviours and poor health of the adult with ASD related to greater caregiving burden.

Conclusions

Implications for policymakers, practitioners and future research are discussed.

Screening for ASD in adults with ID—moving toward a standard using the DiBAS-R and the ACL

1. C. G. Mutsaerts¹,
2. M. Heinrich²,
3. P. S. Sterkenburg^{1,3} and
4. T. Sappok^{2,*}

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Journal of Intellectual Disability Research

Special Issue: Autism Spectrum Disorder

[Volume 60, Issue 5, pages 512–522, May 2016](#)

Abstract

Background

Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in persons with intellectual disability (ID) is challenging but essential to allow adequate treatment to be given. This study examines whether the combination of two ASD screening instruments specifically developed for persons with ID, namely, the *Diagnostic Behavioral Assessment for ASD—Revised* (DiBAS-R) and the *Autism Checklist* (ACL), improves

diagnostic accuracy when used in combination compared to the application of the single instrument.

Method

A clinical sample of adults with ID who are suspected of having ASD ($N=148$) was assessed using two ID specific screening scales (DiBAS-R and ACL). The diagnostic validity of the single instruments and of their combination was assessed.

Results

While both instruments showed acceptable diagnostic validity when applied alone (DiBAS-R/ACL: sensitivity: 75%/91%; specificity: 75%/75%; overall agreement: 75%/83%), specificity increased when two positive screening results were used (88%), and sensitivity increased (95%) when at least one positive screening result was used.

Conclusions

Different combinations of the ASD screening instruments DiBAS-R and ACL lead to improvements in sensitivity and specificity. The complementary use of the ACL in addition to the sole use of the DiBAS-R improves overall accuracy.

Title: Is KCND1 a new gene for X-linked intellectual disability and/or autism spectrum disorder?

Citation: Medizinische Genetik, March 2016, vol./is. 28/1(166), 0936-5931 (March 2016)

Author(s): Schanze I., Becker J., Schanze D., Harakalova M., Cuppen E., Zenker M.

Language: English

Abstract: We describe two half-brothers with moderate intellectual disability, delay of motoric skills, and speech delay without development of active language abilities. Both have severe behavioural anomalies including hyperactivity, temper tantrums, autistic behaviour, and sleep disturbance. The two boys were otherwise in good health. No internal malformations were known, and no specific dysmorphic features were present. All growth parameters were in the normal range. High resolution GTG-banding showed normal karyotypes, molecular testing regarding Fragile-X-syndrome and molecular karyotyping (array-CGH) were unremarkable. Because of the evidence for a X-linked form of intellectual disability, but the non-specific findings in the half-brothers the coding sequence of the X chromosome (X-chromosomal exome) was investigated using NGS-technology. We could identify and confirm by Sanger

sequencing a novel missense mutation of the KCND1 gene in both affected half-brothers. Several in silico tools assessed the deleterious nature of the variant, MutationsTaster and PolyPhen2 classified the mutation as damaging. The variant was not present in public SNP databases (dbSNP, 1000 Genomes Browser, ExAC). Further segregation analysis in the family showed that the mother of the two boys carried the KCND1 mutation, as did the maternal grandmother. KCND1 is one of three members of the KCND/Kv4 family of voltage-gated potassium channels. Members of the Kv4 channel family are responsible for native, rapidly inactivating (A-type) currents in neurons and heart and show subtype specific expression patterns with significant overlaps. KCND1 is expressed ubiquitously with highest levels in brain where it is expressed in almost all areas, including cerebral cortex, cerebellum, corpus callosum, hippocampus, amygdala, thalamus, basal ganglia, medulla, and spinal cord. Mutations in the Kv4 family members KCND2 and KCND3 have been correlated with a broad spectrum of neurological disorders. Truncating mutations in KCND2 lead to temporal lobe epilepsy and some rare variants (submicroscopic de novo deletions, translocations, sequence variants) have been identified in individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorder. Loss-of function mutations in KCND3 have been identified causing spinocerebellar ataxias (SCA19/22), whereas gain-of function mutations were implicated in Brugada syndrome and atrial fibrillation. Furthermore an in-frame duplication of 9 nucleotides within the voltage-sensor domain of KCND3 was described in a patient with mild intellectual disability, seizures and cerebellar ataxia. Considering the identification of a sequence variant in KCND1 in two half brothers with moderate ID and autism spectrum disorder and the correlation of KCND2 and KCND3 with ID and autism we speculate that KCND1 might be a new candidate gene for intellectual disability. To prove the significance of the KCND1 variant functional analysis is pending and further patients with KCND1 variants are desirable.

Publication Type: Journal: Conference Abstract

Source: EMBASE

Title: Trajectories of internalizing and externalizing symptoms among adults with autism spectrum disorders.

Citation: Development and psychopathology, May 2016, vol. 28, no. 2, p. 565-581, 1469-2198 (May 2016)

Author(s): Woodman, Ashley C, Mailick, Marsha R, Greenberg, Jan S

Abstract: Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) experience higher rates of psychopathology than their typically developing peers or peers with other intellectual or developmental disabilities. Little is known about the developmental course of psychiatric symptoms such as internalizing and externalizing behaviors in this population. Individual characteristics and aspects of the family environment may explain variability in outcomes for adults with ASD. The present study extends our current understanding of psychopathology among individuals with ASD by examining group-based trajectories of internalizing and externalizing symptoms in adulthood. Overall, the results showed that symptoms became less severe over time. Distinct patterns of change in psychopathology were observed and associated with differential profiles of psychotropic medication use, comorbid mental health diagnoses, and residential placement. The likelihood of following each developmental trajectory was estimated based on characteristics of the adults with ASD (gender, adaptive behavior, and autistic symptoms) and maternal expressed emotion (criticism and warmth). Maternal criticism and warmth were identified as key risk and protective factors, respectively, with important implications for future research and intervention for individuals with ASD.

Source: Medline

[Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders](#)

June 2016, Volume 46, [Issue 6](#), pp 1916-1930

Psychiatric Co-occurring Symptoms and Disorders in Young, Middle-Aged, and Older Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

- [Anne G. Lever](#),
- [Hilde M. Geurts](#)

Open Access **Article**

09 February 2016

DOI: 10.1007/s10803-016-2722-8

Abstract

Although psychiatric problems are less prevalent in old age within the general population, it is largely unknown whether this extends to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We examined psychiatric symptoms and disorders in young, middle-aged, and older adults with and without ASD ($N_{\max} = 344$, age 19–79 years, IQ > 80). Albeit comparable to other

psychiatric patients, levels of symptoms and psychological distress were high over the adult lifespan; 79 % met criteria for a psychiatric disorder at least once in their lives. Depression and anxiety were most common. However, older adults less often met criteria for any psychiatric diagnosis and, specifically, social phobia than younger adults. Hence, despite marked psychological distress, psychiatric problems are also less prevalent in older aged individuals with ASD.

Title: Gray matter characteristics in mid and old aged adults with asd.

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, May 2016, (May 13, 2016), 0162-3257 (May 13, 2016)

Author(s): Koolschijn, P. C. M., Geurts, Hilde M.

Abstract: It is widely acknowledged that the brain anatomy of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) shows a different developmental pattern than typical age-matched peers. There is however, a paucity of studies examining gray matter in mid and late adulthood in ASD. In this cross-sectional neuroimaging study, we performed vertex-wise whole-brain and region-of-interest analyses of cortical volume, thickness, surface area, and gyrification index in 51 adults with and 49 without ASD, between 30 and 75 years. There was significant age-related volume loss and cortical thinning, but there were no group differences. The lack of significant anatomical differences between intellectual able individuals with and without ASD, suggests that ASD is not (strongly) related to gray matter morphology in mid and late adulthood. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)(journal abstract)

Source: PsycInfo

Title: Mapping the developmental trajectory and correlates of enhanced pitch perception on speech processing in adults with ASD.

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, May 2016, vol. 46, no. 5, p. 1562-

1573, 0162-3257 (May 2016)

Author(s): Mayer, Jennifer L., Hannent, Ian, Heaton, Pamela F.

Abstract: Whilst enhanced perception has been widely reported in individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), relatively little is known about the developmental trajectory and impact of atypical auditory processing on speech perception in intellectually high-functioning adults with ASD. This paper presents data on perception of complex tones and speech pitch in adult participants with high-functioning ASD and typical development, and compares these with pre-existing data using the same paradigm with groups of children and adolescents with and without ASD. As perceptual processing abnormalities are likely to influence behavioural performance, regression analyses were carried out on the adult data set. The findings revealed markedly different pitch discrimination trajectories and language correlates across diagnostic groups. While pitch discrimination increased with age and correlated with receptive vocabulary in groups without ASD, it was enhanced in childhood and stable across development in ASD. Pitch discrimination scores did not correlate with receptive vocabulary scores in the ASD group and for adults with ASD superior pitch perception was associated with sensory atypicalities and diagnostic measures of symptom severity. We conclude that the development of pitch discrimination, and its associated mechanisms markedly distinguish those with and without ASD. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)(journal abstract)

Source: PsycInfo

Title: Change in the Behavioral Phenotype of Adolescents and Adults with FXS: Role of the Family Environment

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, May 2016, vol./is. 46/5(1824-1833), 0162-3257;1573-3432 (01 May 2016)

Author(s): Smith L.E., Hong J., Greenberg J.S., Mailick M.R.

Language: English

Abstract: The present study examined trajectories of adaptive behavior, behavior problems,

psychological symptoms, and autism symptoms in adolescents and adults with fragile X syndrome ($n = 147$) over a three-year period. Adaptive behavior significantly increased over time, particularly for adolescents, and the severity of behavior problems decreased over time. Family environmental factors predicted phenotypic variables net of gender, intellectual disability status, and medication use. Maternal warmth was associated with higher levels of adaptive behavior, lower levels of autism symptoms, and decreases in behavior problems over time. Maternal depressive symptoms and criticism were associated with higher levels of psychological symptoms. Implications for interventions are discussed.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Title: The Influence of Prior Knowledge on Perception and Action: Relationships to Autistic Traits

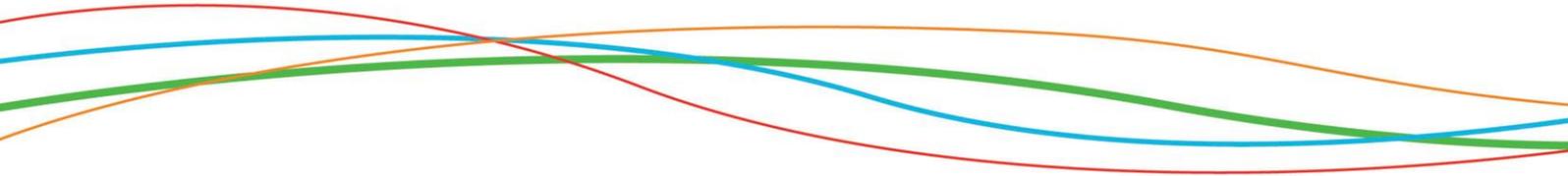
Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, May 2016, vol./is. 46/5(1716-1724), 0162-3257;1573-3432 (01 May 2016)

Author(s): Buckingham G., Michelakakis E.E., Rajendran G.

Language: English

Abstract: Autism is characterised by a range of perceptual and sensorimotor deficits, which might be related to abnormalities in how autistic individuals use prior knowledge. We investigated this proposition in a large non-clinical population in the context of the size-weight illusion, where individual's expectations about object weight influence their perceptions of heaviness and fingertip forces. Although there was no relationship between autistic traits and the magnitude of the illusion, we observed an inverse relationship between AQ scores and how expectations influenced initial fingertip force application. These findings provide a novel dissociation between how perceptual and sensorimotor processes are related to autistic traits, and suggest that, autistic traits might explain some of the variance surrounding how individuals grip and lift objects.

Publication Type: Journal: Article



Source: EMBASE

Title: "What is Life Like in the Twilight Years?" A Letter About the Scant Amount of Literature on the Elderly with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, May 2016, vol./is. 46/5(1883-1884), 0162-3257;1573-3432 (01 May 2016)

Author(s): Bennett M.

Language: English

Abstract: The purpose of this letter is to show the lack of published literature on elderly adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Publication Type: Journal: Letter

Source: EMBASE

Title: Ocular Fixation Abnormality in Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, May 2016, vol./is. 46/5(1613-1622), 0162-3257;1573-3432 (01 May 2016)

Author(s): Shirama A., Kanai C., Kato N., Kashino M.

Language: English

Abstract: We examined the factors that influence ocular fixation control in adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) including sensory information, individuals' motor characteristics, and inhibitory control. The ASD group showed difficulty in maintaining fixation especially when

there was no fixation target. The fixational eye movement characteristics of individuals were consistent regardless of the presence or absence of a fixation target in the controls, but not in the ASD group. Additionally, fixation stability did not correlate with an ability to suppress reflexive saccades measured by an antisaccade task. These findings suggest that ASD adults have deficits in converting alternative sensory information, such as retinal signals in the peripheral visual field or extraretinal signals, to motor commands when the foveal information is unavailable.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Title: Frontal networks in adults with autism spectrum disorder

Citation: Brain, February 2016, vol./is. 139/2(616-630), 0006-8950;1460-2156 (01 Feb 2016)

Author(s): Catani M., Dell'Acqua F., Budisavljevic S., Howells H., Thiebaut De Schotten M., Froudist-Walsh S., D'Anna L., Thompson A., Sandrone S., Bullmore E.T., Suckling J., Baron-Cohen S., Lombardo M.V., Wheelwright S.J., Chakrabarti B., Lai M.-C., Leemans A., Ecker C., Craig M.C., Bailey A.J., Bolton P.F., Carrington S., Daly E.M., Deoni S.C., Happe F., Henty J., Jezzard P., Johnston P., Jones D.K., Madden A., Mullins D., Murphy C.M., Murphy D.G.M., Pasco G., Ruigrok A.N.V., Sadek S.A., Spain D., Stewart R., Williams S.C.

Language: English

Abstract: It has been postulated that autism spectrum disorder is underpinned by an 'atypical connectivity' involving higher-order association brain regions. To test this hypothesis in a large cohort of adults with autism spectrum disorder we compared the white matter networks of 61 adult males with autism spectrum disorder and 61 neurotypical controls, using two complementary approaches to diffusion tensor magnetic resonance imaging. First, we applied tract-based spatial statistics, a 'whole brain' non-hypothesis driven method, to identify differences in white matter networks in adults with autism spectrum disorder. Following this we used a tract-specific analysis, based on tractography, to carry out a more detailed analysis of individual tracts identified by tract-based spatial statistics. Finally, within the

autism spectrum disorder group, we studied the relationship between diffusion measures and autistic symptom severity. Tract-based spatial statistics revealed that autism spectrum disorder was associated with significantly reduced fractional anisotropy in regions that included frontal lobe pathways. Tractography analysis of these specific pathways showed increased mean and perpendicular diffusivity, and reduced number of streamlines in the anterior and long segments of the arcuate fasciculus, cingulum and uncinate - predominantly in the left hemisphere. Abnormalities were also evident in the anterior portions of the corpus callosum connecting left and right frontal lobes. The degree of microstructural alteration of the arcuate and uncinate fasciculi was associated with severity of symptoms in language and social reciprocity in childhood. Our results indicated that autism spectrum disorder is a developmental condition associated with abnormal connectivity of the frontal lobes. Furthermore our findings showed that male adults with autism spectrum disorder have regional differences in brain anatomy, which correlate with specific aspects of autistic symptoms. Overall these results suggest that autism spectrum disorder is a condition linked to aberrant developmental trajectories of the frontal networks that persist in adult life.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Title: Cortical and subcortical glutathione levels in adults with autism spectrum disorder

Citation: Autism Research, April 2016, vol./is. 9/4(429-435), 1939-3792;1939-3806 (01 Apr 2016)

Author(s): Durieux A.M.S., Horder J., Mendez M.A., Egerton A., Williams S.C.R., Wilson C.E., Spain D., Murphy C., Robertson D., Barker G.J., Murphy D.G., Mcalonan G.M.

Language: English

Abstract: Increased oxidative stress has been postulated to contribute to the pathogenesis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, reports of alterations in oxidation markers including glutathione (GSH), the major endogenous antioxidant, are indirect, coming from blood plasma level measurements and postmortem studies. Therefore we used in-vivo 3

Tesla proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy ([¹H]MRS) to directly measure GSH concentrations in the basal ganglia (BG) and the dorsomedial prefrontal cortex of 21 normally intelligent adult males with ASD and 29 controls who did not differ in age or IQ. There was no difference in brain GSH between patients and controls in either brain area; neither did GSH levels correlate with measures of clinical severity in patients. Thus [¹H]MRS measures of cortical and subcortical GSH are not a biomarker for ASD in intellectually able adult men. *Autism Res* 2016, 9: 429-435.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Title: Autonomic symptoms endorsed by adults with autism spectrum disorders

Citation: *Neurology*, April 2016, vol./is. 86/16 SUPPL. 1(no pagination), 0028-3878 (05 Apr 2016)

Author(s): Woodruff B., Temkit M., Adams J., Goodman B.

Language: English

Abstract: Objective: To describe autonomic symptomatology endorsed by adults with autism spectrum disorders on the Compass 31, a survey instrument that captures multiple autonomic symptoms. Background: Autonomic features such as abnormal skin conductance and pupillary responses have been reported in individuals with ASDs, but to our knowledge no systematic approach to identifying autonomic symptomatology has been conducted in adults with ASDs. Design/Methods: The Compass 31, a quantitative measure of autonomic symptomatology, was administered anonymously to 48 adults with ASDs. Subjects were recruited at local autism community meetings or were mailed the instrument after expressing interest in participation. The latter subjects were identified from a database maintained by the Arizona State University Autism/Asperger's Research Program. Results: Weighted Compass 31 total and subscale scores [mean (SD), (range)] were as follows: Total score (Maximum = 100) - 23.5 (16.1), (2.8-60.7); Orthostatic intolerance subscale (Maximum = 40) - 9.5 (9.8), (0.0-28.0); Vasomotor subscale (Maximum = 5) - 0.6 (1.2), (0.0-4.2); Secretomotor subscale

(Maximum = 15) - 3.7 (3.2), (0.0-10.7); Gastrointestinal subscale (Maximum = 25) - 6.2 (3.8), (0.0-18.7); Bladder subscale (Maximum = 10) - 1.2 (1.5), (0.0-6.7); Pupillomotor subscale (Maximum = 5) - 1.8 (1.3), (0.0-5.0). The most commonly endorsed subscales (weighted subscale score > 0) in this sample were Gastrointestinal (97.9[percent]) and Pupillomotor (83.3[percent]). Conclusions: Autonomic symptomatology was not uncommon in this sample of adults with ASDs, with gastrointestinal and pupillomotor symptoms commonly endorsed. Such symptomatology may represent autonomic dysfunction amenable to therapeutic intervention, which will need to be confirmed in future studies including clinical autonomic testing. Amelioration of such symptomatology may help to improve quality of life for a subset of individuals with ASDs.

Publication Type: Journal: Conference Abstract

Source: EMBASE

Title: Protocol for the development and validation of a questionnaire to Assess concerning behaviours and mental health In individuals with autism spectrum disorders: The Assessment of concerning behaviour (ACB) scale

Citation: BMJ Open, 2016, vol./is. 6/3(no pagination), 2044-6055 (2016)

Author(s): Santosh P., Tarver J., Gibbons F., Vitoratou S., Simonoff E.

Language: English

Abstract: Introduction: Co-occurring psychiatric conditions and concerning behaviours are prevalent in individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and are likely to be detrimental to functioning and long-term outcomes. The cognitive rigidity and deficits in emotional literacy and verbal behaviour that commonly occur in ASD can adversely affect clinicians' confidence to identify concerning behaviours and mental health problems. There is a need to develop a measure that is tailored towards individuals with ASD, and differentiates between symptoms of psychopathology and core ASD symptoms. Furthermore, it should be modified to capture internalising symptoms that individuals with ASD may find difficult or be unable to verbalise.

This protocol describes the intended development and validation of the Assessment of Concerning Behaviour (ACB) scale. The ACB will aim to be a multidimensional measure of concerning behaviours in ASD incorporating self-report, parent/carer, teacher/employer and clinician report versions that can be used across the lifespan and spectrum of intellectual ability. Methods and analysis: This study will be guided by the methods described in the US Food and Drug Administration Guidance for Industry Patient-reported Outcome Measures. A literature review, cognitive interviews and focus groups with individuals who have experience of working or living with ASDs will be used for item generation. A sample of children and adults with ASD will complete the ACB, in addition to other gold standard measures of concerning behaviour in order to establish the initial psychometric properties of the scale. Ethics and dissemination: This study has received ethical approval from the NHS Research Ethics Committee: London-Camden and King's Cross (ref: 15/LO/0085). Study findings will be disseminated to healthcare professionals and scientists in the field through publication in peer-reviewed journals and conference presentations.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Full Text:

Available from *National Library of Medicine* in [BMJ Open](#)

Available from *Highwire Press* in [BMJ Open](#)

Title: Self-Reported empathy in adult women with autism spectrum disorders - A systematic mini review

Citation: PLoS ONE, March 2016, vol./is. 11/3(no pagination), 1932-6203 (March 2016)

Author(s): Kok F.M., Groen Y., Becke M., Fuermaier A.B.M., Tucha O.

Language: English

Abstract: Introduction There is limited research on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in females. Although the empathy construct has been examined thoroughly in autism, little attention has been paid to empathy in adult women with this condition or to gender

differences within the disorder. Objective Self-reported empathy in adult women with ASD was examined and compared to that of typically developed men and women as well as to men with this condition. Methods Online databases were searched for articles investigating self-reported empathy among adult women with ASD. Only six studies comparing women to men were identified. Results All studies found women with an ASD to report lower levels of empathy than typically developed women, and typically developed men, but similar levels to men with this condition. Conclusion The self-reported empathic ability of women diagnosed with ASD resembles that of their male counterparts most closely; they show a hypermasculinisation in empathy. This is particularly surprising considering the large gender difference in empathy in the general population. Discussion One of the limitations of this review is that the current diagnostic criteria for ASD are oriented towards male-specific behaviour and fail to integrate gender specific characteristics. Hence, women diagnosed with ASD are likely to be at the male end of the continuum. The suggested hypermasculinisation of women on the spectrum, as evident from this review, may therefore be exaggerated due to a selection bias.

Publication Type: Journal: Review

Source: EMBASE

Full Text:

Available from *National Library of Medicine* in [PLoS ONE](#)

Available from *Allen Press* in [PLoS One](#)

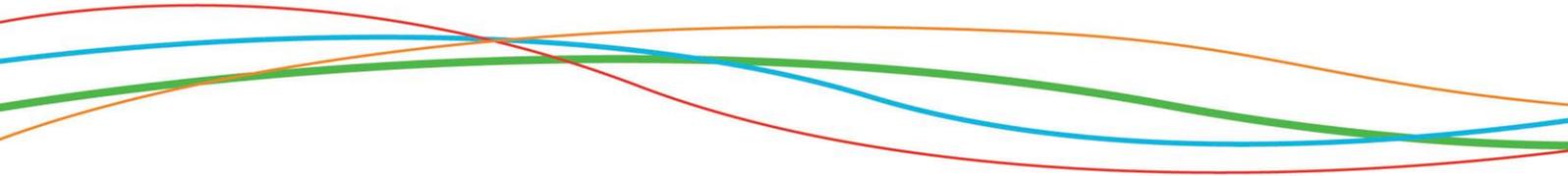
Available from *ProQuest* in [PLoS One](#)

Title: Reduced social coordination in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Citation: Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, June 2016, vol./is. 26/(71-79), 1750-9467;1878-0237 (01 Jun 2016)

Author(s): Zalla T., Sperduti M., Girardi G., Chelini C., Leboyer M., Bourgeois-Gironde S.

Language: English



Abstract: In the present study, we investigated whether individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) were able to coordinate with an unknown partner on the same outcome using a two-person pure coordination game. Twenty-one adults with ASD and twenty-one typically developed (TD) control participants were presented with sets of four items, and were asked to choose one of these items under three conditions: Picking one's own personal preferred item, guessing what might be the partner's preference, and choosing an item in order to coordinate with the partner's choice. Each set included a salient item that stood out for its distinctive properties, known as the focal point. The results showed that individuals with ASD choose more often their preferred items than the salient cues to coordinate with others and to guess the partner's preference, as compared to TD controls. Performance for coordination was related to clinical scores assessing difficulties in communication and the severity of the autistic traits, but was unrelated to verbal intelligence and verbally mediated Theory-of-Mind task. These findings suggest that self-bias processes in decision-making might be a source of impairment in social coordination and interaction in ASD.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Title: Emergency Department Use Among Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, April 2016, vol./is. 46/4(1441-1454), 0162-3257;1573-3432 (01 Apr 2016)

Author(s): Vohra R., Madhavan S., Sambamoorthi U.

Language: English

Abstract: A cross-sectional analyses using Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (2006-2011) was conducted to examine the trends, type of ED visits, and mean total ED charges for adults aged 22-64 years with and without ASD (matched 1:3). Around 0.4 % ED visits (n = 25,527) were associated with any ASD and rates of such visits more than doubled from 2006 to 2011 (2549-6087 per 100,000 admissions). Adults with ASD visited ED for: primary psychiatric disorder (15 %^{ASD} vs. 4.2 %^{noASD}), primary non-

psychiatric disorder (16 %<inf>ASD</inf> vs. 14 %<inf>noASD</inf>), and any injury (24 %<inf>ASD</inf> vs. 28 %<inf>noASD</inf>). Mean total ED charges for adults with ASD were 2.3 times higher than for adults without ASD. Findings emphasize the need to examine the extent of frequent ED use in this population.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Title: Factors Associated with Subjective Quality of Life of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Self-Report Versus Maternal Reports

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, April 2016, vol./is. 46/4(1368-1378), 0162-3257;1573-3432 (01 Apr 2016)

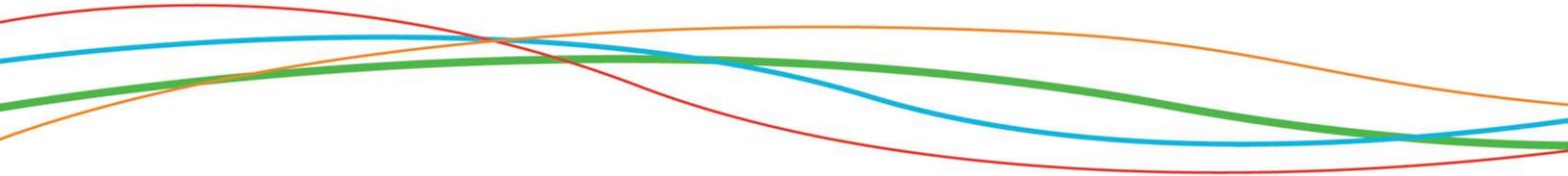
Author(s): Hong J., Bishop-Fitzpatrick L., Smith L.E., Greenberg J.S., Mailick M.R.

Language: English

Abstract: We examined factors related to subjective quality of life (QoL) of adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) aged 25-55 (n = 60), using the World Health Organization Quality of Life measure (WHOQOL-BREF). We used three different assessment methods: adult self-report, maternal proxy-report, and maternal report. Reliability analysis showed that adults with ASD rated their own QoL reliably. QoL scores derived from adult self-reports were more closely related to those from maternal proxy-report than from maternal report. Subjective factors such as perceived stress and having been bullied frequently were associated with QoL based on adult self-reports. In contrast, level of independence in daily activities and physical health were significant predictors of maternal reports of their son or daughter's QoL.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE



Title: Initiation and Generalization of Self-Instructional Skills in Adolescents with Autism and Intellectual Disability

Citation: Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, April 2016, vol./is. 46/4(1196-1209), 0162-3257;1573-3432 (01 Apr 2016)

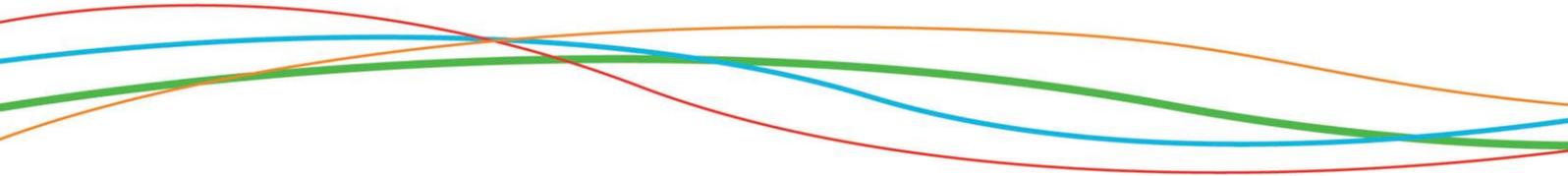
Author(s): Smith K.A., Ayres K.A., Alexander J., Ledford J.R., Shepley C., Shepley S.B.

Language: English

Abstract: Self-instruction using videos or other supports on a mobile device is a pivotal skill and can increase independence for individuals with disabilities by decreasing a need for adult supports. This study evaluated the effects of progressive time delay (PTD) to teach four adolescents with autism and intellectual disability how to initiate self-instruction in the presence of a task direction for an untrained task. Participants were screened for imitating video models prior to the study and were taught to navigate to videos on an iPhone in history training. A multiple probe design across settings embedded in a multiple probe design across participants was used to evaluate the effects of PTD on initiation of self-instruction. All participants learned to self-instruct. Two participants generalized self-instruction to two novel settings. Two participants required instruction in two settings before generalizing to the third. Three participants generalized self-instruction in the presence of a task direction from the researcher to a task direction from their classroom teacher in all three settings. One participant generalized to a task direction presented by the classroom teacher in one setting, but not in the other two. All participants maintained self-instruction behaviors assessed 1 week after all participants met criteria in all settings. Self-instruction using videos or other supports on a mobile device is a pivotal skill and can increase independence for individuals with disabilities by decreasing a need for adult supports.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE



Title: Over-Responsiveness and Greater Variability in Roughness Perception in Autism

Citation: Autism Research, March 2016, vol./is. 9/3(393-402), 1939-3792;1939-3806 (01 Mar 2016)

Author(s): Haigh S.M., Minshew N., Heeger D.J., Dinstein I., Behrmann M.

Language: English

Abstract: Although sensory problems, including tactile hypersensitivity and hyposensitivity (DSM-5) are commonly associated with autism, there is a dearth of systematic and rigorous research in this domain. Here, we report findings from a psychophysical experiment that explored differences in tactile perception between individuals with autism and typically developing control participants, who, using their index finger, rated a series of surfaces on the extent of their roughness. Each surface was rated multiple times and we calculated both the average rating and the variability across trials. Relative to controls, the individuals with autism perceived the surfaces as rougher overall and exhibited greater variability in their ratings across trials. These findings characterize altered tactile perception in autism and suggest that sensory problems in autism may be the product of overly responsive and variable sensory processing.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

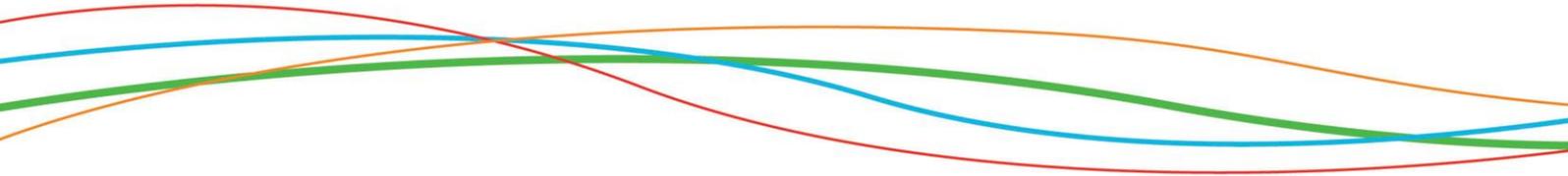
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Title: Premature mortality in autism spectrum disorder

Citation: British Journal of Psychiatry, March 2016, vol./is. 208/3(232-238), 0007-1250;1472-1465 (March 2016)

Author(s): Hirvikoski T., Mittendorfer-Rutz E., Boman M., Larsson H., Lichtenstein P., Bolte S.

Language: English



Abstract: Background Mortality has been suggested to be increased in autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Aims To examine both all-cause and cause-specific mortality in ASD, as well as investigate moderating role of gender and intellectual ability. Method Odds ratios (ORs) were calculated for a population-based cohort of ASD probands (n = 27 122, diagnosed between 1987 and 2009) compared with gender-, age-and county of residence-matched controls (n = 2 672 185). Results During the observed period, 24 358 (0.91%) individuals in the general population died, whereas the corresponding figure for individuals with ASD was 706 (2.60%; OR = 2.56; 95% CI 2.38-2.76). Cause-specific analyses showed elevated mortality in ASD for almost all analysed diagnostic categories. Mortality and patterns for cause-specific mortality were partly moderated by gender and general intellectual ability. Conclusions Premature mortality was markedly increased in ASD owing to a multitude of medical conditions.

Publication Type: Journal: Article

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