

Autism

Definition:

A neurological disorder that affects growth, which occurs early in childhood and continues throughout life. It also affects how a person behaves and interacts with others and also affects their communication and learning.

Cause:

The cause of the disease is not yet known, and research suggests that environmental and genetic factors have an important role.

Symptoms:

- **Restrictive and repetitive behaviors include:**
 1. Repeating specific behaviors or the presence of strange behaviors.
 2. A great and lasting interest in certain topics such as numbers.
 3. Excessive focus is like focusing on moving objects.
- **Communication and social interaction behaviors include:**
 1. Resentment of a change in routine even if it is minor or when you put the person in a new place.
 2. Not looking into the speaker's eyes and or listening to others as they talk.
 3. Not participating in activities, rarely enjoying activities.
 4. Unusual response when others show anger, distress, affection, and slow response when someone calls out his name.
 5. Finds it difficult to talk and converse with others.
 6. Talks in his favorite topic without giving others a chance to respond.
 7. Repeats the words or phrases he hears.
 8. Shows strange expressions on the face that do not suit the context of the conversation.
 9. Unusual tone when talking.



10. Difficulty understanding others' point of view and understanding people's actions.
11. Sensitive to light, noise, clothing, temperature, and have sleep and digestion problems.

• **Strengths and capabilities include:**

1. Above average intelligence
2. the ability to learn things in detail and remember information for a long time.
3. Audio-visual power.
4. Excellence in mathematics, science, music and art.

Risk factors:

1. Gender:
2. Family history.
3. Genetics.
4. Old age of parents

Diagnosis:

1. Growth test.
2. Comprehensive diagnostic assessment

Complications:

1. Fragile X syndrome.
2. Mental disability
3. Tuberous sclerosis.

Treatment:

1. Treatment with antibiotics such as: Risperdone and Serotonin.
2. Language and speech therapy
3. Vitamins

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How common is autism?**
About one in every 100 children has autism, and boys are four times more likely than girls.
- **What are the expectations after diagnosis?**
Autism is lifelong, and its severity varies from child to child, it is difficult to predict the outcome of each child.
- **Do vaccinations cause autism?**
Vaccination does not cause autism.
- **Do TV and smart devices cause autism?**
they not cause autism.
- **Is autism hereditary?**
The cause of autism remains unknown; however, some studies indicate it is due to a genetic factor.
- **Can an autistic child study in public schools here?**
No, he cannot study in public schools.
- **Does the child respond to early intervention programs?**
Yes, they respond to well-organized early intervention programs.
- **Are there useful rehabilitation programs for people with autism?**
yes, there are.
- **Who is competent to diagnose autism?**
Several units work to diagnose autism, including:
 1. Psychiatrist (pediatrician), pediatricians specializing in growth and development, and neurologist (pediatrician).
 2. Speech therapist



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- **Does autism need preventive screening?**
There is no preventive screening
- **Is there a relationship between autism and hyperactivity?**
no.
- **Is malnutrition during pregnancy related to autism?**
yes.

Clinical Health Education Department

For more information, please contact us by email on:

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