



 

Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders

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Objectives

- To provide a brief overview of autism spectrum disorders
- To consider autism as a developmental disability
- To provide information about common characteristics of people with autism spectrum disorders

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What Are Autism Spectrum Disorders?

- Complex neurological disorder
- Developmental disability
- Lifelong disability
- Spectrum disorder

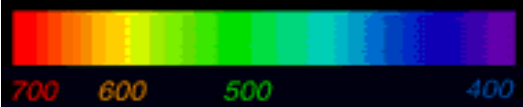


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What Are Autism Spectrum Disorders?

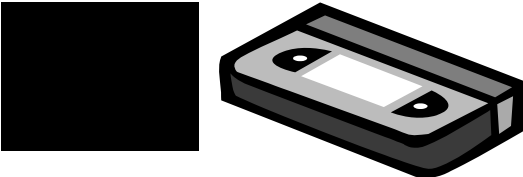
- Wide Range of Behaviors and Abilities



"If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism."

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Adults with Autism



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True or False

- There are medical tests to diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorders.

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Diagnosis

- No tests to diagnose ASD
- Medical diagnosis criteria is described in the DSM-IV-TR (APA, 2000)
- Subjective/Observational Test by Multidisciplinary team

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Pervasive Developmental Disorders

Autistic Disorder Asperger's Disorder Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD-NOS)
 Childhood Disintegrative Disorder Rett's Disorder



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Incidence

- Prevalence of autism has risen to 1 in every 110 births in the United States
- Are apparent by age three
- Prevalent in males four times more than females
- Knows no racial, ethnic or economic boundaries
- Seizure disorder found in about 30% of persons with ASD's

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Cause...



“There is no conclusive evidence as to the cause of autism” (Rapin, 1997)


Current Considerations:

- Genetics
- Environment
- Vaccinations



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Dr. Irva Hertz-Picciotto, Chief of the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health at UC-Davis

“Multiple factors contribute not just across the population but within any one individual. So when I say that I think autism is multifactorial in its causation, I think that applies to even at the individual level so that it might take two or three susceptibility genes combined with two or three environmental factors at critical junctures.”


Cited from - http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/health/jan-june11/autism2preval_04-19.html
4/20/2011



Characteristics



- What do you know about Autism?





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Question


- Which of the following is NOT a common characteristic of autism?
 - Communication deficits
 - Social impairments
 - Unusual patterns of restricted/stereo-typical behaviors
 - It only afflicts minority populations

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Characteristics

- **Social**
- **Communication**
- **Unusual Patterns of Behavior**



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Law Enforcement Video



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Characteristics

- **Social Characteristics:**
 - Differences in non verbal communication skills
 - Often do not build relationships with others their age at a level typically expected, considering their overall development
 - May rarely share attention with others
 - Difficulties with showing emotional reciprocity

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Characteristics

- **Communication Characteristics**
 - non-verbal communication
 - receptive language
 - expressive communication





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Characteristics

- Unusual Patterns of Behavior
 - Resistance to change
 - Ritualistic or compulsive behaviors
 - Unusual interests and attachments
 - Unusual responses to sensory experiences





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Gather Information

- Add key information (preference profile)



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Preference Profile

List the following, including foods, toys, sensory items, supports, etc.

Preferences	Dislikes	Must Haves No Ways	What Calms


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True or False

- Autism is a complex neurological disorder and developmental disability and lasts a lifetime.


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Which statements are true?

- a) Prevalence of autism has risen to 1 in every 110 births in the United States
- b) Are apparent by age three
- c) Prevalent in males four times more than females
- d) Knows no racial, ethnic or economic boundaries
- e) Seizure disorder found in about 30% of persons with ASD's

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Fill in the Blank.

- If you've met one person with autism, you've _____

- a) met them all.
- b) only just begun.
- c) met one person with autism.



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Resources

- The Autism Programs
505-272-1852
<http://cdd.unm.edu/swan/>
- The Autism Programs Web Course
http://cdd.unm.edu/swan/AUTISM_COURSE/index.htm
- Autism Society of America
www.autism-society.org
- New Mexico Autism Society
505-332-0306
www.nmautismsociety.org



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Resources

- Adults with Autism-Autism the hidden epidemic
http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/6844737/ns/health-mental_health/
- Law Enforcement Video
<http://www.autismriskmanagement.com/index.cfm>

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Resources



- Please click [here](#) to view the series Autism Now.



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Thank You

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Thank-you for your Attention and Attendance

 "That's all folks!"

- Please complete the Evaluations (Our continued funding and efforts are based on the Evaluations!)

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