



Sy.Med Development, Inc.

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Complicating factors

Healthcare
Financial
Social
Family

Prognosis & Possible Treatments

Number of children
Entered into trial
Study
UCM Clinical Research
& Development

DSM 5 CRITERIA

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Symptoms/Diagnosis

Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disability that affects communication and social interaction skills. It is characterized by a range of symptoms, including: limited verbal and non-verbal communication skills, repetitive and restricted interests, and sensory sensitivities. The symptoms vary in severity and can affect individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

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ETIOLOGY

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT GENETIC FACTORS PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUTISM. A STUDY OF 100 BABIES BORN BEFORE 27 WEEKS GESTATION DEVELOPED ASD.

Symptoms/Diagnosis

- Keanu is a 7 years old, and an adopted child
- A difficult child
- Aggression, frequent temper tantrums and noncompliance
- No form of punishment seemed effective
- Difficulty focusing on tasks and work completion at school and functioning
- Difficulty making relationship with peers and others
- Odd stereotyped movements
- Having below grade level performance
- A long history of sleep problems
- Not respond to multiple medications
- Diagnosed with a range of childhood disorders, including: ASD, intellectual disability, oppositional-defiant disorder, stereotypic movement disorder, and primary insomnia.

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DSM 5 CRITERIA

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Requirements...

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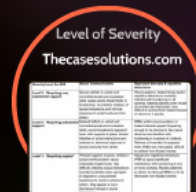
- Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts.
- Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities.
- Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period (but may not become fully manifest until social demands exceed limited capacities, or may be masked by learned strategies in later life).
- Symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of current functioning.
- These disturbances are not better explained by intellectual disability (intellectual developmental disorder) or global developmental delay. Intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder frequently co-occur; to make comorbid diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability, social communication should be below that expected for general developmental level.



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Level of Severity

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Severity Level for ASD	Social Communication	Restricted interests & repetitive behaviours
Level 3 - 'Requiring very substantial support'	Severe deficits in verbal and nonverbal social communication skills cause severe impairments in functioning; very limited initiation of social interactions and minimal response to social overtures from others	Preoccupations, fixated rituals and/or repetitive behaviours markedly interfere with functioning in all spheres. Marked distress when rituals or routines are interrupted; very difficult to redirect from fixated interest or returns to it quickly.
Level 2 - 'Requiring substantial support'	Marked deficits in verbal and nonverbal social communication skills; social impairments apparent even with supports in place; limited initiation of social interactions and reduced or abnormal response to social overtures from others	RRBs and/or preoccupations or fixated interests appear frequently enough to be obvious to the casual observer and interfere with functioning in a variety of contexts. Distress or frustration is apparent when RRB's are interrupted; difficult to redirect from fixated interest
Level 1 - 'Requiring support'	Without supports in place, deficits in social communication cause noticeable impairments. Has difficulty initiating social interactions and demonstrates clear examples of atypical or unsuccessful responses to social overtures of others. May appear to have decreased interest in social interactions	Rituals and repetitive behaviours (RRB's) cause significant interference with functioning in one or more contexts. Resists attempts by others to interrupt RRB's or to be redirected from fixated interest.

Other Diagnoses

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- Intellectual delays
- oppositional-defiant disorder
- stereotypic movement disorder
- primary insomnia

Clinical range for...

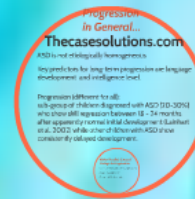
- anxiety problems
- ADH
- conduct problems

ETIOLOGY

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KEANU WAS...

- Exposed to drugs in Utero
- ASD often linked to unnatural maternal chemical exposure
- Born six weeks premature
 - Study of 100 babies born before 27 weeks: 30% developed ASD



Progression in General...

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ASD is not etiologically homogeneous

Key predictors for long-term progression are language development and intelligence level.

Progression (different for all):
sub-group of children diagnosed with ASD (20-30%)
who show skill regression between 18 - 24 months
after apparently normal initial development (Lainhart
et al, 2002) while other children with ASD show
consistently delayed development.

Other Possible Causes/ linkage to Progression:

- accelerated brain growth before symptoms appear
- hyperconnectivity in brain
- Extreme high levels serotonin