

DESCRIPTION

712 AUTISTIC DISORDER

Synonyms: Infantile autism, Kanner's syndrome

Involves the following Biologic System(s):

Developmental/Behavioral/Psychiatric Disorders, Neurologic Disorders

Autistic disorder, also known as infantile autism, is classified as a developmental disability that results from a disorder of the human central nervous system. It usually becomes apparent by three years of age. It is thought to affect approximately four in 10,000 children and is about three to four times more common in males than females. Autistic disorder is characterized by deficient verbal and nonverbal communication, impaired social interactions, and a restricted range of interests and activities.

Children with autistic disorder may fail to acquire or have poorly developed verbal and nonverbal communication skills. If children do communicate verbally, abnormal speech patterns are typically present, such as repetition of another's words or phrases (echolalia); reversal of the proper use of pronouns, such as use of the term "you" rather than "I" when referring to themselves; and nonsensical rhyming. In addition, affected children may be withdrawn, make little or no eye contact, resist cuddling, lack awareness of others' thoughts or feelings, or fail to seek comfort when distressed. Children also typically engage in solitary play for hours, perform ritualistic behaviors and repeated body movements (e.g., rocking, flicking fingers) and have a strong need for a predictable, consistent environment. Certain behaviors (e.g., rubbing an object or surface) may demonstrate a heightened awareness of particular stimuli, whereas others, such as a lack of reaction to sudden, loud noises, may indicate a lowered sensitivity to other stimuli. In many children with autistic disorder, disruptions of rituals or routines may result in tantrum-like outbursts or rages. In addition, some children may exhibit self-injurious or outwardly aggressive behaviors. Because of impairment of language and socialization skills, it may be difficult to obtain accurate estimates of overall intelligence levels and potential. Although such testing often demonstrates functional retardation, some affected children perform adequately in nonverbal areas, such as spatial and motor skills, and those with speech skills may perform adequately in all test areas.

In most patients, the symptoms and findings associated with autistic disorder continue to affect them throughout life. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the use of an antipsychotic, risperidone, for the treatment of irritability associated with autistic disorder, including symptoms of aggression, deliberate self-injury, temper tantrums, and quickly changing moods. This is the first time the FDA has approved any medication for use in children and adolescents with autism. In addition, the management and treatment of affected children may include integrated, multidisciplinary techniques, such as language therapy, structured play and interpersonal exercises, and other behavioral therapies. Some patients, particularly those with speech development, may lead somewhat independent lives with proper support. However, other individuals with autistic disorder may require special, ongoing care.

The cause of autistic disorder is unknown. However, according to the medical literature, several underlying neurologic, infectious, and other disorders are known to produce or to increase a predisposition toward autistic-like behaviors in children. Genetic abnormalities are also thought to play some role in causing or resulting in susceptibility for the disorder. For example, some researchers theorize that autistic disorder may result from certain brain abnormalities during infancy (e.g., particular biochemical abnormalities, brain injury, etc.), potentially in combination with a genetic predisposition for the condition (multifactorial).

Government Agencies

713 NIH/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

PO Box 5801
Bethesda, MD 20824

301-496-5751
800-352-9424
Fax: 301-496-0296
TTY: 301-468-5981
www.ninds.nih.gov

The mission of NINDS is to reduce the burden of neurological disease - a burden borne by every age group, by every segment of society, by people all over the world.

Walter J. Koroshetz, MD, Director

714 NIH/National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

31 Center Drive, MSC 2320
Bethesda, MD 20892

800-241-1044
TTY: 800-241-1055
nidcdinfo@nidcd.nih.gov
www.nidcd.nih.gov

Conducts and supports biomedical research and research training on normal mechanisms, as well as diseases and disorders of hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech and language.

James F. Battey Jr, MD, PhD, Director
Judith A. Cooper, Deputy Director
Timothy J. Wheelers, Executive Officer

National Associations & Support Groups

715 Achieve Beyond

7000 Austin Street, Suite 200
Forest Hills, NY 11375

718-762-7633
Fax: 212-679-7867
info@achievebeyondusa.com
www.achievebeyondusa.com

Achieve Beyond was founded in 1995 to meet the needs of developmentally delayed and disabled children and their families, particularly children with bilingual needs.

Trudy Font Padron, Founder/ Programs Executive Dir
Robert Padron, Executive Director

716 Aging with Autism

704 Marten RD
Princeton, NJ 8540

908-904-9319
contact@agingwithautism.org
www.agingwithautism.org

Aging with Autism is dedicated to enhancing programs and services for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities as they transition to and through adulthood.

Dr. Cyndy Hayes, Founder/ President
Andria Prather, Administrator

717 American Academy of Pediatrics

141 Northwest Point Boulevard
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

847-434-4000
800-433-9016
Fax: 847-434-8000
www.aap.org

The American Academy of Pediatrics and its member pediatricians are committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

Fernando Stein, MD, FAAP, President
Karen Remley, MD, CEO/Executive VP

718 American Psychological Association

750 First St. NE
Washington, DC 20002

202-336-5500
800-374-2721
TTY: 202-336-6123
www.apa.org

The mission is to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives.

Norman B. Anderson, PhD, CEO/ EVP
L. Michael Honaker, PhD, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ellen G. Garrison, PhD, Senior Policy Advisor

719 American School Counselor Association

1101 King Street, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314

703-683-2722
800-306-4722
Fax: 703-997-7572
asca@schoolcounselor.org
www.schoolcounselor.org

The mission of ASCA is to represent professional school counselors and to promote professionalism and ethical practices.

Richard Wong, Executive Director
Jeff Broderson, Information Technology Admin.
Kathleen M Rakestraw, Director of Communications

720 Asperger/Autism Network

51 Water Street, Suite 206
Watertown, MA 2472

617-393-3824
866-597-AANE
Fax: 617-393-3827
info@aane.org
www.aane.org

The Asperger/Autism Network (AANE) works with individuals, families, and professionals to help people with Asperger Syndrome and similar autism spectrum profiles build meaningful, connected lives.

Jayne Burke, President
Karen Boyd, Vice President
Stephen Burgay, B.A., J.D., Vice President

721 Association for Science in Autism Treatment

PO Box 188
Crosswicks, NJ 08515

781-397-8943
info@asatonline.org

To disseminate accurate information about autism and treatments, and to improve access to effective, science-based treatments for all people with autism.

David Celiberti PhD BCBA, President
Sharon A Reeve PhD BCBA, Vice President

722 Autism Action Network

550 East Chester Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

516-382-0081
Fax: 888-995-6161
jgillmore@autismactionnetwork.org
autismactionnetwork.org

Autism Action Network is a national, non-partisan, grassroots, political action organization formed by parents in support of children and adults with autism, vaccine injuries, and neurodevelopmental and communication disorders.

723 Autism Consortium

10 Shattuck Street
Boston, MA 2115

866-518-0296
Fax: 617-432-6960
autismconsortium@hms.harvard.edu
www.autismconsortium.org

The Autism Consortium catalyzes rapid advances in understanding of autism by fostering collaboration among families, researchers, clinicians, and donors. There mission is to improve the care of children and families affected by autism and other neurological disorders.

Deirdre B. Phillips, Executive Director
Laura K. Farfel, Digital Outreach Coordinator

724 Autism Inclusion Resources

www.autismir.com

info@autismir.com
www.autismir.com

AIR is the creative force behind services and solutions that will enable today's generation of children with autism to participate more fully in the world.

Wendy Ross, MD, FAAP, Founder
Roger Ideishi, JD, OT/L, Collaborator
Angela Jones, PhD, Collaborator

725 Autism National Committee

3 Bedford Green
South Burlington, VT 05403

800-378-0386
sandra.mcclennen@emich.edu
www.autcom.org

Organization dedicated to social justice for all citizens with autism through a shared vision and a commitment to positive approaches.

Anne Bakeman, Treasurer

726 Autism Network International

PO Box 35448
Syracuse, NY 10190

315-476-2462
jisincla@mailbox.syr.edu
www.autismnetworkinternational.org

Supported by individuals who want to make a difference for the sufferers, the foundation provides a variety of support and educational references to inform on the latest changes in the field.

Jim Sinclair, Coordinator
Jame Bordner, List-owner
Sola Shelly, Webmaster

727 Autism Network for Hearing and Visually Impaired Persons

7510 Ocean Front Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

757-428-9036
Fax: 757-428-0019
www.autism.com

Provides communication, education, research and advocacy for persons with autism combined with a hearing or visual disability, their families, and professionals. Sharing of educational materials, phone help, support groups, referrals and conferences.

Dolores Bartel, Contact
Alan Bartel, Contact

728 Autism Research Foundation

C/O Moss-Rosene Lab, W701
72 East Concord Street, R-1014
Boston, MA 10192

617-414-7012
Fax: 617-414-7207
tarf@ladders.org
www.theautismresearchfoundation.org

The Autism Research Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to brain-based research and inclusion programs in the community. Our goal is to fundraise for continuous brain-based research, while providing tangible resources for families and providers managing autism right now.

Margaret Bauman MD, Founding Director
Thomas Sabin MD, President
Thomas Kemper MD, Vice President

729 Autism Research Institute

4182 Adams Avenue
San Diego, CA 10193

619-281-7165
866-366-3361
Fax: 619-563-6840
media@autismresearchinstitute.com
www.autism.com

ARI advocates for the rights of people with ASD, and operates without funding from special-interest groups. ARI is dedicated to developing a standard of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families. We rely on the generosity of donors to help us advance autism research and provide needed information and support for families and individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Stephen Edelson, Executive Director
Jane Johnson, Managing Director
Rebecca McKenney, Office Manager

730 Autism Research Institute Conference

Autism Research Institute
4182 Adams Avenue
San Diego, CA 10194

619-281-7165

866-366-3361

Fax: 619-563-6840

www.autism.com/index.php/video

ARI advocates for the rights of people with ASD, and operates without funding from special-interest groups. ARI is dedicated to developing a standard of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families. We rely on the generosity of donors to help us advance autism research and provide needed information and support for families and individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Stephen Edelson PhD, Executive Director
Jane Johnson, Managing Director
Rebecca McKenney, Office Manager

731 Autism Science Foundation

28 West 39th Street, Suite #502
New York, NY 10018

212-391-3913

Fax: 212-391-3954

contactus@autismsciencefoundation.org
autismsciencefoundation.org

The Autism Science Foundation's mission is to support autism research by providing funding and other assistance to scientists and organizations conducting, facilitating, publicizing and disseminating autism research. The organization also provides information about autism to the general public and serves to increase awareness of autism spectrum disorders and the needs of individuals and families affected by autism.

Alison Singer, Co-Founder/ President
Karen Margulis London, Co-Founder
Gregg E. Ireland, SVP, Capital World Investors

732 Autism Services Center

929 4th Avenue, P.O. Box 507
Huntington, WV 10195

304-525-8014

Fax: 304-525-8026

www.autismservicescenter.org

Autism Services Center (ASC) is a nonprofit, licensed behavioral health center that was founded in 1979 by Ruth C. Sullivan, Ph.D. to provide services in Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln and Mason counties in the state of West Virginia. Though specializing in autism, ASC provides comprehensive, community-integrated services to all individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mike Grady, CEO
Elaine Harvey, Vice President
Derek Hyman, President & Treasurer of the Greater

733 Autism Society of America

4340 East-West Hwy, Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

301-657-0881

800-328-8476

info@autism-society.org
www.autism-society.org

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

Scott Badesch, President & CEO
Matthew Asner, VP Development
Selena Hernandez, Manager, Support Services

734 Autism Solution Center www.autismsolutioncenter.com

dorrisphilpot@yahoo.com
www.autismsolutioncenter.com

The Autism Solution Center, Inc. (ASC) is a non-profit organization being developed to address an unmet, ongoing need within our communities for autism therapy, support services, research and other assistance.

735 Autism Speaks

1 East 33rd Street 4th Floor
New York, NY 10197

212-252-8584

Fax: 212-252-8676

familyservices@autismspeaks.org

www.autismspeaks.org

At Autism Speaks, our goal is to change the future for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorder. We are dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and cure for autism; to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; and to bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder.

Liz Feld, President
Peter H Bell, Executive VP
Lisa Goring, Vice President

736 Autism Treatment Center of America www.autismtreatmentcenter.org

413-229-2100

877-766-7473

www.autismtreatmentcenter.org

Welcome to the Autism Treatment Center of America, the worldwide teaching center for The Son-Rise Program, a powerful and effective treatment for children and adults challenged by Autism, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), Asperger's Syndrome, and other developmental difficulties.

737 Autistic Services

4444 Bryant Stratton Way
Williamsville, NY 10198

716-631-5777

888-288-4764

Fax: 716-565-0671

tpanzarella@autism-services-inc.org

www.autisticservices.org

Agency exclusively dedicated to serving the unique lifelong needs of autistic individuals. Also a regional resource for parents, school districts, physicians and other professionals.

Veronica Federiconi, Executive Director

738 Autreat

Autism Network International
PO Box 35448
Syracuse, NY 13235

315-476-2462

jisincla@mailbox.syr.edu

www.autismnetworkinternational.org

A retreat-style conference run by autistic people, for autistic people and friends. Focuses on positive living with autism, not on causes, cures, or ways to make individuals more normal.

August

Jim Sinclair, Coordinator
Jane Bordner, List-Owner
Sola Shelly, Webmaster

739 Center for Autism and Related Disorders

19019 Ventura Blvd., Suite 300
Tarzana, CA 91356

818-345-2345

855-345-2273

Fax: 818-758-8015

www.centerforautism.com

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) uses applied behavior analysis (ABA) in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

Doreen Granpeesheh, Founder/ Executive Director