

autism spectrum disorder

autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental condition that affects communication, behavior, and social interaction. It is characterized by a wide range of symptoms and varying degrees of severity, making it a "spectrum" disorder. Individuals with autism spectrum disorder may experience challenges with verbal and nonverbal communication, repetitive behaviors, and difficulties in social settings. Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial in improving outcomes and supporting individuals in reaching their full potential. This article explores the definition, causes, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment options, and strategies for managing autism spectrum disorder, providing a comprehensive overview of this important topic.

- Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Causes and Risk Factors
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Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism spectrum disorder is a neurodevelopmental condition that manifests in early childhood and persists throughout life. It impacts how individuals perceive the world and interact with others. ASD encompasses a variety of subtypes, including classic autism, Asperger's syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), though these terms are less commonly used today in favor of a unified diagnosis. The spectrum nature of the disorder means symptoms and their intensity can vary widely from person to person.

Definition and Characteristics

ASD is defined by challenges in three key areas: social interaction, communication, and repetitive or restrictive behaviors. Individuals may struggle to understand social cues, maintain conversations, and exhibit repetitive movements or fixated interests. These characteristics can affect daily functioning and quality of life, necessitating tailored support and accommodations.

Prevalence and Demographics

The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder has increased over recent decades, partly due to improved awareness and diagnostic criteria. Current estimates suggest that approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States are diagnosed with ASD. It affects all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, though boys are diagnosed more frequently than girls, with a ratio of about 4:1.

Causes and Risk Factors

The exact causes of autism spectrum disorder remain unknown, but research indicates a combination of genetic and environmental factors contribute to its development. Understanding these causes helps guide early detection and intervention strategies.

Genetic Influences

Genetics play a significant role in autism spectrum disorder, with studies showing that ASD tends to run in families. Multiple genes are believed to be involved, affecting brain development and function. Genetic mutations, inherited or spontaneous, can increase susceptibility to ASD, although no single gene is responsible for all cases.

Environmental Factors

Environmental influences during prenatal and early postnatal periods may also contribute to the risk of autism spectrum disorder. Factors under investigation include advanced parental age at conception, prenatal exposure to certain medications or toxins, complications during pregnancy or birth, and maternal infections. These elements may interact with genetic predispositions to increase the likelihood of ASD.

Other Risk Factors

Additional risk factors associated with autism spectrum disorder include:

- Premature birth or low birth weight
- Sibling with ASD
- Exposure to air pollution during pregnancy
- Certain metabolic or immune conditions in the mother

Symptoms and Diagnosis

Identifying autism spectrum disorder involves recognizing specific behavioral patterns and developmental delays. Diagnosis is typically based on clinical observation and standardized assessments conducted by specialists.

Core Symptoms

The core symptoms of ASD revolve around difficulties in social communication and interaction, alongside restricted and repetitive behaviors. Examples include avoiding eye contact, delayed speech development, insistence on routines, and intense focus on particular interests. Sensory sensitivities, such as hypersensitivity to sounds or textures, are also common.

Diagnostic Process

Diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder involves a comprehensive evaluation that includes developmental history, direct observation, and use of diagnostic tools such as the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) and the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R). Early screening is recommended for children showing developmental concerns, with formal diagnosis often occurring by age two or three.

Challenges in Diagnosis

Some individuals, particularly those with milder symptoms or females, may receive a diagnosis later in life due to less obvious signs or social masking. Accurate diagnosis requires experienced clinicians familiar with the broad spectrum of presentations and co-occurring conditions such as anxiety or ADHD.

Treatment and Intervention Strategies

While there is no cure for autism spectrum disorder, various treatments and interventions can significantly improve functioning and quality of life. These approaches are tailored to individual needs and typically involve multidisciplinary teams.

Behavioral Therapies

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is one of the most widely used evidence-based therapies for ASD. It focuses on reinforcing positive behaviors and reducing problematic ones through structured techniques. Other behavioral interventions include pivotal response treatment and social skills training.

Educational Support

Specialized educational programs and individualized education plans (IEPs) help children with autism spectrum disorder develop academic and social skills. These programs emphasize communication, socialization, and adaptive skills, often incorporating speech therapy and occupational therapy.

Medical and Pharmacological Treatments

Medications do not treat autism spectrum disorder itself but may be prescribed to manage associated symptoms such as anxiety, hyperactivity, or irritability. Common medications include selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), stimulants, and antipsychotics, used under careful medical supervision.

Family and Caregiver Support

Supporting families and caregivers is essential in managing autism spectrum disorder. Training and counseling programs equip caregivers with strategies to enhance communication, behavior management, and emotional support.

Living with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder can lead fulfilling lives with appropriate support and accommodations. Understanding the challenges and strengths associated with ASD is vital for promoting inclusion and acceptance in society.

Daily Living and Independence

Many people with autism spectrum disorder develop skills to increase independence in daily activities, employment, and social relationships. Support services may include vocational training, life skills coaching, and community integration programs.

Social Inclusion and Advocacy

Efforts to promote awareness and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder aim to reduce stigma and improve access to resources. Advocacy groups work to ensure rights, provide education, and foster environments that accommodate diverse needs.

Challenges and Opportunities

While challenges such as sensory sensitivities, social communication difficulties, and mental health concerns may persist, many individuals with autism spectrum disorder also exhibit unique talents and perspectives. Recognizing and nurturing these strengths contributes to personal growth and societal enrichment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the early signs of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in children?

Early signs of ASD may include limited eye contact, delayed speech development, repetitive behaviors, difficulty with social interactions, and a strong preference for routines.

How is autism spectrum disorder diagnosed?

ASD is diagnosed through a comprehensive evaluation by specialists which includes developmental screenings, behavioral assessments, and collecting detailed information from parents and caregivers.

What treatments and therapies are effective for individuals with autism spectrum disorder?

Effective treatments often include behavioral therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and educational interventions tailored to the individual's needs to improve social skills, communication, and daily living.

Can autism spectrum disorder be outgrown or cured?

ASD is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition; it is not curable, but many individuals improve their skills and functioning significantly with appropriate support and interventions.

What causes autism spectrum disorder?

The exact cause of ASD is unknown, but it is believed to result from a combination of genetic and environmental factors that affect brain development.

Additional Resources

1. *NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity*

This groundbreaking book by Steve Silberman explores the history of autism and challenges traditional views of the condition. It offers an in-depth look at how society's understanding of autism has evolved and highlights the importance of embracing neurodiversity. The book combines historical research with personal stories to present a compelling case for acceptance and support.

2. *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*

Written by Naoki Higashida, a nonverbal autistic teenager, this memoir provides a rare and insightful glimpse into the mind of someone living with autism. Through a series of questions and answers, Higashida explains the reasons behind behaviors often misunderstood by others. The book fosters empathy and a deeper understanding of the autistic experience.

3. *Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism*

Dr. Barry Prizant offers a compassionate perspective on autism, emphasizing that autistic behaviors are meaningful responses rather than symptoms to be eliminated. He advocates for approaches that focus on understanding and supporting individuals on the spectrum. The book is filled with practical advice and real-life examples for families and professionals.

4. *Look Me In The Eye: My Life with Asperger's*

John Elder Robison shares his personal journey growing up with undiagnosed Asperger's syndrome. His memoir is candid and often humorous, shedding light on the challenges and strengths associated with autism. The story highlights the importance of self-acceptance and the value of neurodiverse perspectives.

5. *Autism Spectrum Disorder: The Ultimate Teen Guide*

This informative guide by Francis Tabone is designed specifically for teenagers on the autism spectrum. It covers a wide range of topics including social skills, education, and independent living. The book aims to empower autistic teens with knowledge and practical strategies for navigating everyday life.

6. *The Autistic Brain: Helping Different Kinds of Minds Succeed*

Temple Grandin, a renowned autistic advocate and scientist, combines personal experiences with the latest neuroscience research to explain how autistic brains function differently. She discusses strengths and challenges, and offers advice for education and employment. This book is a valuable resource for understanding autism from both scientific and personal perspectives.

7. *In a Different Key: The Story of Autism*

Written by John Donvan and Caren Zucker, this comprehensive history traces the evolving understanding of autism from early misconceptions to modern awareness. The authors tell the stories of individuals and families affected by autism, highlighting both struggles and triumphs. It's a well-researched narrative that contextualizes current debates about autism.

8. *Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary "Executive Skills" Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential*

Authors Peg Dawson and Richard Guare focus on executive functioning skills, which are often areas of difficulty for children with autism spectrum disorder. The book provides practical tools and strategies to help improve organization, time management, and self-regulation. It's a useful guide for parents, educators, and therapists working with autistic children.

9. *Different, Not Less: Inspiring Stories of Achievement and Successful Employment from Adults with Autism, Asperger's, and ADHD*

Temple Grandin and Colin Farrell compile inspiring personal stories from adults on the autism spectrum who have found success in various careers. The book challenges stereotypes and offers hope by showcasing diverse talents and abilities. It's an uplifting collection that emphasizes the potential of individuals with autism in the workforce.

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autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorder Christopher McDougale, 2016-01-22
The Primer on Autism Spectrum Disorder provides a quick yet comprehensive overview of clinically-relevant topics related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) for the medical or mental health student, trainee, or recent graduate who seeks efficient learning. Chapters are designed to give an overview of a topic area in real time while on a rotation; while studying for professional board examinations in primary care, pediatrics, neurology or psychiatry; or even during preparation for a presentation or discussion scheduled to occur the next day. The sections include Background and Diagnostic Assessment, Etiology, Treatment, and Other Care Delivery Services and Perspectives, with each chapter written by an internationally recognized expert in the field. The chapters on diagnosis and treatment are written from a practical how to perspective. Those on etiology are written with the clinician in mind. These clinically-focused chapters include one or more vignettes that present simulated patient cases designed to highlight teaching points related to each chapter's content area. The book ends with a chapter written by family members of individuals with ASD and another written by an adult with ASD that illustrate the human impact these disorders have on day-to-day lives, hopes, and dreams. At the end of each chapter, Key Points for summarizing the intended take home messages of each author/authors are listed.

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorders David Amaral, Daniel Geschwind, Geraldine Dawson, 2011-05-01 Autism is an emerging area of basic and clinical research, and has only recently been recognized as a major topic in biomedical research. Approximately 1 in 150 children are diagnosed as autistic, so it is also an intense growth area in behavioral and educational treatments. Financial resources have begun to be raised for more comprehensive research and an increasing number of scientists are becoming involved in autism research. In many respects, autism has become a model for conducting translational research on a psychiatric disorder. This text provides a comprehensive summary of all current knowledge related to the behavioral, experiential,

and biomedical features of the autism spectrum disorders including major behavioral and cognitive syndromology, common co-morbid conditions, neuropathology, neuroimmunology, and other neurological correlates such as seizures, allergy and immunology, gastroenterology, infectious disease, and epidemiology. Edited by three leading researchers, this volume contains over 80 chapters and nine shorter commentaries by thought leaders in the field, making the book a virtual who's who of autism research. This carefully developed book is a comprehensive and authoritative reference for what we know in this area as well as a guidepost for the next several years in all areas of autism research.

autism spectrum disorder: Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders, First Edition Sam Goldstein, Jack A. Naglieri, Sally Ozonoff, 2008-09-19 Significant progress has been made in assessing children with autism spectrum disorders, but the field has lacked a single, comprehensive resource that assembles current best practices within a unified assessment framework. This authoritative book demonstrates how to craft a complete, scientifically grounded, and clinically useful portrait of a child's strengths and difficulties in social behavior, language and communication, intellectual functioning, motor skills, and other key areas of impairment and comorbidity. Leading experts illustrate ways in which school and clinical practitioners can integrate data from a variety of sources to improve the accuracy of diagnosis and inform the development of individualized interventions.

autism spectrum disorder: Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder Sam Goldstein, Sally Ozonoff, 2018-02-12 This authoritative resource, now thoroughly revised for DSM-5, has set the standard for the comprehensive assessment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Leading experts demonstrate how to craft a scientifically grounded profile of each child's strengths and difficulties, make a formal diagnosis, and use assessment data to guide individualized intervention in clinical and school settings. Chapters review state-of-the-art instruments and approaches for evaluating specific areas of impairment in ASD and co-occurring emotional and behavioral disorders. Considerations in working with children of different ages are highlighted. With a primary focus on children, several chapters also address assessment of adolescents and adults. New to This Edition *Chapter on key implications of DSM-5 diagnostic criteria, plus related updates throughout the volume. *Chapter on advances in early identification (ages 0-3). *Chapter with in-depth case examples illustrating the evaluation decision-making process and common diagnostic challenges. *Chapters on pseudoscience (including strategies for advising parents) and future directions in the field. *Current assessment data, numerous new and revised measures, and cutting-edge screening approaches.

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorders from A to Z Barbara T. Doyle, Emily Doyle Iland, 2004 Guiding readers step-by-step through the complex of symptoms, definitions, assessments and diagnoses of the variety of autism spectrum disorders, the authors provide practical strategies to improve the assessment process and help the child or adult deal with the stress of the evaluations.

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorders Chantal Sicile-Kira, 2004 An expert in the field of autistic disorders presents a comprehensive and accessible overview of all aspects of autism conditions, including Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and other autism spectrum disorders, explaining how diagnose ASDs, family coping strategies, treatment options, educational programs, and more. Original.

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorders Dianne Zager, David F. Cihak, Angi Stone-MacDonald, 2016-08-12 The fourth edition of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Identification, Education, and Treatment continues the mission of its predecessors: to present a comprehensive, readable, and up-to-date overview of the field of autism; one that links research, theory, and practice in ways that are accessible to students, practitioners, and parents. During the last decade, autism spectrum disorders (ASD) have emerged as the fastest growing developmental disability, and, in response to the dramatic increase in diagnoses, diagnostic criteria in the newly published DSM-5 are significantly different than they were in the DSM IV-R. The structure, content, and format of Autism Spectrum Disorders, 4th Edition have been revised to accommodate changes in the field and to

illuminate the current state of the art in the study of autism. New information on early identification, transition education from adolescence through to adulthood, neurobiological research, and technology-based solutions is included.

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorders in Infants and Toddlers

Katarzyna Chawarska, Ami Klin, Fred R. Volkmar, 2008-02-05 This book is out of print. See Autism Spectrum Disorder in the First Years of Life: Research, Assessment, and Treatment, edited by Katarzyna Chawarska and Fred R. Volkmar (ISBN 978-1-4625-4323-6).

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorder Jill M. Boucher, 2017-02-15

Following on from the popular and provocative First Edition, the Second Edition offers the latest research on autistic spectrum disorders, exploring theories at the psychological, neurobiological and 'first cause' levels to methods of assessment, intervention, education and support.

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorders Richard L. Simpson With Coauthors,

Sonja de Boer-Ott, Deborah E. Griswold, Brenda Smith Myles, Sara E. Byrd, Jennifer B. Ganz, Katherine T. Cook, Kaye Otten, Josefa Ben-Arieh, Sue Ann Kline, Lisa Garriott Adams, 2004-06-01 How can you best help children with autism reach their full potential? Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) present a perplexing challenge for parents and school professionals. This essential resource was developed to respond directly to the difficulty school professionals and families face in selecting and applying appropriate interventions and treatments for the children in their care. The information is presented in a straightforward format, practical for finding answers to complex questions, and includes: A description of the intervention or treatment Reported benefits and effects associated with its use A synthesis of how the outcomes relate to individuals with ASD Potential costs and risks

autism spectrum disorder: Autism Spectrum Disorder in the First Years of Life Katarzyna

Chawarska, Fred R. Volkmar, 2020-08-24 Synthesizing an explosion of recent research, this book presents dramatic advances in understanding and treating autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in very young children. Leading authorities describe the innovative tools and methods that are enabling clinicians to more effectively identify 0- to 5-year-olds with the disorder and those at risk for related problems. Chapters discuss the early core symptoms and co-occurring characteristics of ASD, the best diagnostic instruments, and lessons learned from large-scale screening and surveillance, including sibling studies. The book reviews evidence-based interventions and explores practical issues in treatment of young children and their families.

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Spectrum Disorder Laura C. Chezan, Katie Wolfe, Erik Drasgow, 2022-08-10 This book provides resources for the identification, selection, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based practices to promote positive outcomes for learners with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) across the lifespan and to enhance their quality of life. The decision-making process for identifying and selecting evidence-based practices to address the academic, behavioral, and social needs of this population of learners is discussed, followed by a systematic description of the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based practices within the context of ongoing assessment and data-based decision making. The authors present evidence-based training models for solving the common dilemmas of selecting, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based practices. Finally, the book underlines the importance of developing collaborative partnerships with families and other professionals to better address the needs of learners with autism spectrum disorder.

autism spectrum disorder: The Complexity of Autism Spectrum Disorders Michael Wolff,

Bradley Bridges, Thomas Denczek, 2018-09-03 Since its first identification, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has presented myriad challenges of diagnosis and classification. Our understanding has evolved from a cluster of diagnostic categories (Asperger's, Autism, and Pervasive Development Disorder) to the current continuum of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Meanwhile, we have progressed from debating the validity of the diagnosis, to considering it a modern epidemic. This evolution has drawn attention across a variety of fields, including the neurosciences, education, forensics, and behavioral health. While new research accumulates, there remains a lack of conceptual and practical

clarity about what ASD is, how specific diagnoses might be delineated, and what we can do to understand and manage the complexity of individuals on the Spectrum. In understanding ASD, one size does not fit all—families, schools, and clinicians all need a multi-faceted engagement with the specifics they encounter. This text opens a critical dialogue through which students, researchers, and clinicians can challenge their ideas about what it means to work with the unique presentations of individuals on the Spectrum. It provides education, clinical expertise, and personalization to the lives influenced by the ever-changing dynamics of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

autism spectrum disorder: *Autism Spectrum Disorder* Kelly Nicole Banneyer, 2022 While this book is not intended to serve as a how-to manual for providing assessment and intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), it should serve as an informational source and guide of evidence-based practice. The first six chapters of this text discuss assessment, including common characteristics and presentations of an ASD diagnosis (Chapter 1), common co-occurring conditions (Chapter 2), factors associated with ASD (Chapter 3), evidence-based assessment in clinical settings (Chapter 4), and best practices for assessment in school settings (Chapter 5). The second part of this book focuses on various forms of intervention, including behavioral intervention with an emphasis on applied behavioral analysis (Chapter 6), an overview of treatments for core symptoms of ASD (Chapter 7), the use of cognitive behavioral therapy for autistic individuals (Chapter 8), treatment for severe mal-adaptive behaviors including feeding difficulties and aggression (Chapter 9), school-based modifications and interventions (Chapter 10), and pharmacological interventions (Chapter 11). Since ASD is a diagnosis usually given in childhood and early intervention is important, the majority of the content in this book is focused on and comes from research from children. However, several chapters allude to research based on autistic adults, and Chapter 12 focuses on important considerations when providing intervention to adolescents and young adults--

autism spectrum disorder: *Autism Spectrum Disorder* Sarah Goldy-Brown, 2017-07-15 Not all autistic people are alike. One person living with autism spectrum disorder may not speak, while another may enjoy talking to friends and family. Educating readers about the facts concerning autism is important, as much misinformation is spread through the media. Readers discover the science behind this disorder and the ways it is diagnosed and treated today. Detailed infographics offer statistics at a glance, and a list of organizations to contact provides resources for people living with autism spectrum disorder, as well as their family and friends.

autism spectrum disorder: *Autism Spectrum Disorder* Michael Fitzgerald, 2015-04-02 This book starts with a new sub category of Autism Criminal Autistic Psychopathy and school shootings. It focuses on a number of interventions, including speech and language pathology, speech and language assessment instruments, occupational therapy, improving functional language development in autism with natural gestures, communication boards etc as well as helping people with autism using the pictorial support, training of concepts of significant others, theory of mind, social concepts and a conceptual model for empowering families of children with autism cross culturally. It also examines the issue of hyperandrogenism and evidence-based treatments of autism. In terms of assessment, it focuses on psychological and biological assessment including neurotransmitters systems, structural and functional brain imaging, coping strategies of parents, examines the intertwining of language impairment, specific language impairment and ASD, as well as implicit and spontaneous Theory of Mind reading in ASD. In terms of aetiology, it focuses on genetic factors, epigenetics, synaptic vesicles, toxicity during neurodevelopment, immune system and sex differences. It also examines the link between social cognitive anatomical and neurophysiologic biomarkers and candidate genes. This book will be relevant to all mental health professionals because autism occurs in all the different areas of psychiatry and professionals who will find it helpful will be psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, teachers and all those working with persons with Autism including parents who nowadays are interested in knowing more and more, at a detailed level about their children or adults with autism.

autism spectrum disorder: *Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder* Vincent

Mark Durand, 2014-05-01 The main focus of this program is to demonstrate positive parenting approaches to working with mothers and fathers of children who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. The evidenced-based approach demonstrated in this video focuses on increasing a sense of hope in these parents. In this video, Dr. Durand works with a single-mother of an 8-year old boy with autism spectrum disorder. He helps her see how she thinks about herself and her son impacts on her relationship with him at home. He then helps her focus on seeing the improvements she has seen in her son's behavior over time, and encourages her to take credit for these positive changes.

autism spectrum disorder: Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

James K. Luiselli, 2014 Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a state-of-the-art volume of 15 chapters across four thematic sections that reflect the current convention of viewing autism along a continuum of presenting symptoms. Skillfully edited by James K. Luiselli, sections cover diagnosis, assessment, and measurement; evidence-based practices; health and development; and additional topics such as mindful caregiving and support, CBT, and behavioral family intervention.

autism spectrum disorder: *Autism Spectrum Disorder (revised)* Chantal Sicile-Kira,

2014-01-07 Explains all aspects of autism, including how to get an accurate diagnosis, coping strategies for families, and resources for educators and professionals.

autism spectrum disorder: History and Significance of the Autism Spectrum Disorder

Brittany Forrester, 2020-02-18 Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that begins early in childhood and lasts throughout a person's life. It affects how a person acts and interacts with others, communicates, and learns. It includes what used to be known as Asperger syndrome and pervasive developmental disorders. It is called a spectrum disorder because people with ASD can have a range of symptoms. People with ASD might have problems talking with you, or they might not look you in the eye when you talk to them. They may also have restricted interests and repetitive behaviors. They may spend a lot of time putting things in order, or they may say the same sentence again and again. They may often seem to be in their own world. Seventy-five years ago, the world knew little about autism as a whole. With the help of time, we now have a better understanding of the disease spectrum. Those observations made by the early pioneers have evolved as breakthroughs in the disease management process. One must remain abreast of the character traits and discoveries of modern medicine and hopeful preventions that shall advance individual accommodations in future treatments. In exploring past human competency levels and myths of autism, an emphasis of significance is placed on increasing awareness and the reaction factors to seeking treatment, as the scope of early intervention.

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