

Asperger Syndrome

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/aspersyndrome.html>

Asperger syndrome (AS) is an autism spectrum disorder. Autism spectrum disorders are developmental disorders that affect how a person behaves, interacts with others, communicates, and learns. Asperger syndrome is milder than autism but shares some of its symptoms.

The cause of Asperger syndrome is not known. It is more common in boys than girls.

Signs and symptoms of Asperger syndrome show up by the time children are 3 years old. A major symptom is an obsessive interest in a single subject. They want to know everything about the topic and often talk about little else. They may have an excellent vocabulary but have very formal speech patterns.

Other symptoms include

- Trouble reading social cues and recognizing other people's feelings
- Having strange movements or mannerisms
- Problems with motor skills
- Avoiding eye contact
- Having rituals
- Being sensitive to certain lights, sounds, textures, or tastes

All of these make it difficult for them to make friends.

Treatment focuses on the three main symptoms: poor communication skills, obsessive or repetitive routines, and physical clumsiness. Treatments may also include behavior therapy and medicines.

NIH: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Start Here

- Asperger Syndrome [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/asperger/Pages/default.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- Asperger Syndrome [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/asperger/detail_asperger.htm] **NIH** (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/El_sindrome_de_Aasperger.htm]

Overviews

- Asperger Syndrome [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/parents_pdfs/Asperger_Syndrome.pdf] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF - In English and Spanish
- Asperger Syndrome [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/asperger/asperger.htm>] **NIH** (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary
- Asperger Syndrome [<http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/brain/asperger.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/emociones/asperger_esp.html]
- Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism Tool Kit [http://www.autismspeaks.org/docs/family_services_docs/AS-HFA_Tool_Kit.pdf] (Autism Speaks) - PDF

Diagnosis/Symptoms

- How Do Health Care Providers Diagnose Asperger Syndrome?

[<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/asperger/conditioninfo/Pages/diagnose.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

- What Are the Symptoms of Asperger Syndrome?

[<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/asperger/conditioninfo/Pages/symptoms.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Treatment

- What Are the Treatments for Asperger Syndrome?

[<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/asperger/conditioninfo/Pages/treatments.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov. Asperger Syndrome

[<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Asperger+Syndrome%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)

Genetics

- Genetics Home Reference: Asperger syndrome [<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/asperger-syndrome>] **NIH** (National Library of Medicine)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Social cognition impairments in Asperger syndrome and schizophrenia. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23266067?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: The implications of the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 for... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23233478?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Cognitive variability in adults with ADHD and AS: disentangling the... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23220737?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Asperger Syndrome -- see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=asperger+syndrome\[majr\]+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=asperger+syndrome[majr]+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

Organizations

- Autism Society [<http://www.autism-society.org/>]
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] **NIH**
- National Institute of Mental Health [<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/>] **NIH**
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>] **NIH**
Also available in Spanish [<http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/>]

Patient Handouts

- Asperger syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001549.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001549.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Asperger syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001549.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Autism [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/autism.html>]
- Children and Teenagers [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childrenandteenagers.html>]
- Mental Health and Behavior [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mentalhealthandbehavior.html>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Asperger Syndrome* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>]

Date last updated: 13 May 2013

Topic last reviewed: 9 September 2012