Autism


Also called: Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), Pervasive developmental disorder (PDD)

Autism is a disorder that is usually diagnosed in early childhood. The main signs and symptoms of autism involve communication, social interactions and repetitive behaviors.

Children with autism might have problems talking with you, or they might not look you in the eye when you talk to them. They may spend a lot of time putting things in order before they can pay attention, or they may say the same sentence again and again to calm themselves down. They often seem to be in their "own world."

Because people with autism can have very different features or symptoms, health care providers think of autism as a "spectrum" disorder. Asperger syndrome is a milder version of the disorder.

The cause of autism is not known. Autism lasts throughout a person's lifetime. There is no cure, but treatment can help. Treatments include behavior and communication therapies and medicines to control symptoms. Starting treatment as early as possible is important.

NIH: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Start Here
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastomos/autismo.htm]
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/autism/Pages/default.aspx] NIH (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Overviews
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastomos/trastomos_generalizados_del_desarrollo.htm]

Latest News
Diagnosis/Symptoms
- Autism Screening and Diagnosis [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/screening.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Signs and Symptoms of Autism [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/signs.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Treatment

Alternative Therapy

Nutrition
- Autism and Diet [http://www.eatright.org/Public/content.aspx?id=6815] (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)

Rehabilitation/Recovery

Coping

Specific Conditions
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/childhood-disintegrative-disorder/DS00801/DSECTION=all&METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

Related Issues
- Autism Spectrum Disorders and Stuttering [http://www.stutteringhelp.org/autism-spectrum-disorders] (Stuttering Foundation of America)
- Autism: Caregiver Support [http://www.nami.org/PrinterTemplate.cfm?Section=Helpline1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=66014] (NAMI)
- Concerns about Autism: CDC Statement on Autism and Thimerosal [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/Concerns/Autism/Index.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Why Are Autism Spectrum Disorders Increasing? [http://www.cdc.gov/Features/AutismPrevalence/] (Centers...
for Disease Control and Prevention)

Health Check Tools
- How Much Do You Know about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs)? Test Your Knowledge... [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/quiz.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Interactive Tools to Track Child Development [http://www.cdc.gov/features/DetectAutismTools/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/actearly/spanish/]

Videos

Clinical Trials
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Child Development Disorders, Pervasive [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Child+Development+Disorders,+Pervasive%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)

Genetics

Research
- Autism Research [http://www.cdc.gov/features/AutismResearch/] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/especialesCDC/AutismoInvestigacion/]
(National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)


Journal Articles

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


Directories

- Psychologist Locator [http://locator.apa.org/] (American Psychological Association)

Organizations

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [http://www.cdc.gov/]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/]
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/]

Statistics


MedlinePlus Magazine


Children

  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/crecimiento/pervasive_develop_disorders_esp.html]
Society


Teenagers

  Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/mente/autism_esp.html]

Adults

- Adults with Autism [http://www.nami.org/PrinterTemplate.cfm?Section=Helpline1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=66015] (NAMI)

Patient Handouts

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001526.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001535.htm]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:


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The primary NIH organization for research on Autism is the National Institute of Mental Health [http://www.nimh.nih.gov]


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