

Autism

Student Name

Institutional affiliation

Autism

Autism is a condition that occurs early in childhood, and the terminology can be used to describe a complex of neurological developmental disorders (University of Connecticut, 2010). The disorder is life long and affects the ability of an individual to relate and interact with other people. In essence, these people are incapable of comprehending the behavioral aspects of the world around them. These attributes lead to a complex of signs that are characterized by the impairment in non-verbal and verbal communication and social interactions. The main features of the condition are frequently recognized by the parents after the second year of life (University of Connecticut, 2010).

As mentioned above, the condition leads to the impairment of social development, which results in lack of intuition, reduction in attention span, less response to social stimuli, failure to make eye contact, and inability to utilize movements for self-expression (University of Connecticut, 2010). In this aspect, the patients often have compulsive behavior; suffer from stereotypy, engage in ritualistic behavior, and vulnerable to self-injury. The communication impairments include poor development of natural speech, lack of vocal pattern synchronization and often present with echolalia (University of Connecticut, 2010).

Autism develops as a result of impaired maturation of different systems of the brain. The exact mechanism of development is unknown; however, studies illustrate that there is an acceleration of brain development, which is followed by slow development (University of Connecticut, 2010). Some studies suggest in poor balance in the concentration and connectivity of neurons in different regions, which leads to overdevelopment of some functions, and deficiency in others. Furthermore, there is also a disruption in the balance of inhibitory and excitatory networks. There are also suggestions of poor synaptic connections, and poor synthesis of regulatory proteins (University of Connecticut, 2010).

The management of the condition involves the reduction of the behavioral and social deficits present in autistic patients. There are two broad categories of treatment that include education and medication (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, 2012). The latter includes risperidone, methylphenidate and aripiprazole, which are targeted towards reduction of psychotic episodes (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, 2012). The educational approach, involves creating an education environment that facilitates for these children to grow and develop their skills.

References

Assessment, diagnosis and clinical interventions for children and young people with autism spectrum disorders. (2012). *Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network*

Guidelines for Clinical Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders. (2010). *University of Connecticut*.