

Autism

Psychology



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Autism is an incurable disease that affects 5 million Americans and whose symptoms last through the entire lifetime of a patient (Ncbi, . It is a development disorder that appears in the first three years of life. Autism is classified as a neurobiological disorder. The incidence of autism in the United States among new born babies is 1 out of 110. A new study performed in South Korea on autism suggests that the incidence of autism might be much higher in 2011 than it was estimated in the past. The study performed in South Korea revealed that 1 out of 38 children suffer from autism, thus 2.64% of the new Korean babies are being born with the disease (Roan, 2011). This new study suggests that the rate of autism in the United States may be much higher since it is a fact that autism is on the rise and is growing every year at an approximate rate of 10%. Autism is more than three times more likely to occur among boys than in girls. The exact cause of autism is unknown to the medical community, but there are variety of factors that combined could be causing the disease. Some of the possible causes of autism include diet, digestive track changes, mercury poisoning, vaccine sensitivity, and the body's inability to properly use vitamins and minerals (Ncbi, 2010). Children born with autism require a lot of care and attention. People with autism have problems with verbal and non verbal communication and with any type of social interaction. They don't like when their daily routines are changed and often perform repeated movements with different parts of their bodies particularly their hands. Their senses often become extremely sensitive, thus strong odors and loud noises causes distress among autism patients. Autism is not diagnosed at birth, since the disease takes several years to become detectable. Pediatricians must perform routinely developmental exams in babies and young children to

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screen them out for the possibility of having autism. There are certain developments milestones that if not met can be a cause of concern. Five of those development criteria are listed below: 1. Babbling by 12 months 2. Gesturing by 12 months 3. Speaking single words by 16 months 4. Saying two-word spontaneous phrases by 24 months 5. Losing any language or social skills at any age (Ncbi, 2011). Once a child does not meet one of these criteria a doctor must perform further evaluations and tests to determine if the child suffers from autism. Pediatricians may perform blood lead test, hearing exams, autism screening questionnaires, or checklist for autism in toddlers test to detect for autism. Often these tests are not sufficient to diagnose autism and pediatricians must refer the patient to other specialists to test the child's communication, language, motor skills, speech, success at school, and thinking abilities to ensure a child has autism (Ncbi, 2011). There are important facts that must be considered in regards to autism treatment. First there is no cure for autism and secondly there is no standard treatment protocol that must be followed when treating autism as different treatments work differently on patients. The objective of autism treatment and therapies is to lessen the symptoms of the disease. In regards to prescription pills autism patients are often given stimulants, antidepressants, and antipsychotic drugs. Often the use of drugs instead of helping the autism patient it makes their condition worse. The therapeutically approach of using alternative medicine is recommended by physicians for all autism patients particularly those patients that have adverse reactions to drugs. Autism patients should visit a nutritionist since they have specific dietary needs. A proper diet can improve the quality of life of an autism patient. Children and teenagers with autism should be placed in special educational programs for <https://assignbuster.com/autism/>

disable people because a regular classroom environment can be detrimental to their condition. Chelation therapy was often used to treat autism, but this method has come under scrutiny by the FDA in recent years. The use of physical therapy can help autism patients control their involuntary body movements such as repetitive hand gestures. Non medical interventions have proven effective for autism patients. Including music and art during therapies is used for sensory integration (Autism-society). References Autism-society. org. Related Approaches. Retrieved September 25, 2011 from <http://www. autism-society. org/living-with-autism/treatment-options/related-approaches. html>

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