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**Autism**

Autism (Autism Spectrum Disorder) refers to a broad range of conditions that are characterized by challenges in social skills, abnormal and repetitive behavior, poor speech, and lack of verbal communication (Robertson & Baron-Cohen, 2017). Autism affects more than 10 % of the global population, and the statistics of Center for Disease Control reveal that the disorder affects 1 in 55 children in U.S. There are many subtypes of autism that are mainly influenced by genetic and environmental situations where every person with the disorder show different symptoms depending on their strengths or challenges.

***Symptoms***

Autism is a prevalent neurodevelopmental disorder that often manifests itself in the early developmental stages, and a child can develop mild or severe symptoms (Petinou&Minaidou, 2017). Parents often confuse the symptoms of the disorder with the developmental challenges of their children. However, as the child grows older, they begin to question why their children are not verbal and only use gadgets to communicate where they get aggressive once confronted with an angry situation (TED, 2014). They are easily aggravated and they cannot have a meaningful conversation. In addition, they do not return the affection shown by their parents. The main symptoms of autism in children include abnormal body postures, funny facial expressions, poor speech, lack of language comprehension, and abnormal social interactions (Amaral, Schumann &Nordahl, 2008). The disorder has many warning signals, although they are mainly considered as developmental challenges.

**Diagnosis**

There are no medical tests such as blood tests to diagnose the disorder hence the DSM-5 assessment criteria is applied. DSM-5 diagnosis shows that children with autism show social impairments and have problems interacting with other people. They lack awareness of others, and they may be particularly attracted to weird things. Neuroscience findings have played a major role in diagnosing the disorder. To date, the diagnosis relies on research on aberrant brain activities and atypical morphology to determine whether infants have the condition or they show the symptoms of autism.

**Neurobiological Basis of the Condition and Treatment Options**

Autistic children have a spectrum disorder that makes their brains to grow quickly. Evidence shows that autistic children grow their frontal and temporal cortex faster than normal children (Carlson & Birkett, 2017). The pattern also follows the growth of the amygdala, where the development affects the parts that are involved in with-order processing that include communication or interpreting social stimuli. In addition, the brain of autistic children shows impairments in the white matter and depict higher volumes of right caudate nucleus that explains their repetitive behavior. The current treatment options include behavioral and cognitive therapy. These treatment procedures help maximize functional independence. Medications are only used to deal with a specific symptom such as aggression but there is no medication that can cure the disorder fully. Early treatment interventions lead to enhanced outcomes later in the lives of children with autistic disorders.

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