

An Analysis on Common Symptoms of Children with Autism

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Abstract:

Background: Autism has a strong genetic basis, although the genetics of autism are complex and it is unclear whether ASD is explained more by rare mutations, or by rare combinations of common genetic variants. The prevalence of autism is about 1–2 per 1,000 people worldwide, and it occurs about four times more often in boys than girls. **Objective:** To assess common symptoms of children with Autism was ultimate goal of this study. **Methodology:** This was a cross sectional observational study. Non probability convenient

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*sampling technique was used to collect data. Pretested structured questionnaire was used to take interview. Data were collected from February 2011 through June 2014. **Result:** Poor speech was first common symptom (62%), second common symptom was odd behavior (55%), third was lack of eye contact (50%), fourth was problem of toilet training (46%), fifth was no response of name (37%), and sixth was lack of peer interaction (27%) and seventh symptom was attention deficiency (19%). The main expectation of this study was, the parents/caregiver and other professionals become more conscious about the common symptom of Autism for the better improvement of the child.*

Key words: Autism, Children, Common Symptoms

Introduction

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a lifelong developmental disability defined by diagnostic criteria that include deficits in social communication and social interaction and restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities¹. Initial signs and symptoms typically are apparent in the early developmental period; however, social deficits and behavioral patterns might not be recognized as symptoms of ASD until a child is unable to meet social, educational, occupational, or other important life stage demands. Functional limitations vary among persons with ASD and might develop over time. The global prevalence of autism has increased twentyfold to thirtyfold since the earliest epidemiologic studies were conducted in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At that time, prevalence estimates from European studies were one in 2,500 children in the population², and by the 2000s prevalence estimates from large surveys were 1%–2% of all children^{3–5}. Although the underlying reasons for the apparent prevalence changes are difficult to study empirically, select studies suggest that much of the recent prevalence increase is likely attributable to extrinsic factors such as improved awareness

and recognition and changes in diagnostic practice or service availability^{5,6}. It is estimated by the Ministry of Social Welfare that the total number of persons with ASDs, could be as high as 1, 4 million -- of whom only a few hundred have been diagnosed. One estimation is also that one child in 500 in Bangladesh has autism, meaning that the approximate number of children with ASDs in Bangladesh is no less than 280,000. The general attitude towards autism is mostly negative and it is seen as a social barrier. Even today, autism is considered a God-given curse and children with ASDs are taken as possessed by the Devil. Also bad parenting is accused: mothers going out to work still get the blame. There is a lack of knowledge about ASDs even among doctors. Very often, children are misdiagnosed and given antipsychotic drugs by psychiatrists. The present study is an attempt to explore common symptoms of children with autism.

Methodology

It was an observational cross sectional study. The study was conducted in the Centre for Neurodevelopment & Autism in Children (CNAC), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Data were collected from February 2011 through June 2014. Children from different parts of the country and different economy background were the target group. The children were taken autism management in outdoor service which we called outdoor patient department (OPD), in Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in children (CNAC), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Their age limit was 2 to 10 years. It was noticed that all children came in the first time to take the Autism Management service as new patient. This study aims to analyze all primary data of the children from their first visit of Autism Management service. The symptoms, such as, eye contact, no response of name, poor speech, attention deficiency, problem of

toilet training (activities of daily living), peer interaction, odd behavior were taken under consideration becomes from 2011 through June 2014, it was noticed that the children all over the country from different economic background were observed as patient with above symptoms which in common for first visit of 600 children in three and half years.

Results

Table 1 shows, children with Autism from observation of Autism Instructor and information of parents or caregiver presents the data that out of 220 children in year 2011, 99 children had lack of eye contact, 65 children had no response of name, 113 children had poor speech, 27 children had attention deficiency 78 children had problem of toilet training, 68 children had problem of peer interaction and 84 children had shown odd behavior. Here the study finds out that out of 220 children, most common symptom was poor speech and second symptom was lack of eye contact and third common symptom was odd behavior. Table 2 shows, children with Autism from observation of instructor and information of parents or caregiver presents the data that out of 200 children in years 2012, 87 children had lack of eye contact, 69 had no response of name, 116 had poor speech, 35 had attention deficiency, 91 children had no toilet training, 49 children had lack of peer intervention, 114 children had shown odd behavior. Here, the study finds out that out of 200 children, most common symptom was poor speech, second common symptoms was odd behavior, and third common symptom was problem of toilet training. Table 3 shows, children with Autism from observation of instructor and information of parents or caregiver presents the data that out of 120 children in year 2013, 68 children had lack of eye contact, 54 children had no response of name, 87 children had poor speech, 29 children had attention deficiency, 69 children had problem of toilet training, 26 children had lack of

peer interaction, 75 children had shown odd behavior. The study finds out that out of 120 children, most common symptom was poor speech, second common symptom was odd behavior and third was problem of toilet training. Table 4 shows children with autism from observation of autism instructor and information of parents or caregiver presents the data that out of 60 children in June 2014, 47 children had lack of eye contact, 33 children had no response of name, 57 children had poor speech, 27 children had attention deficiency 38 children had problem of toilet training. 17 children had lack of peer interaction, 56 children had shown odd behavior. This study finds out that out of 60 children, most common symptom was poor speech, second common symptom was odd behavior and third was lack of eye contact. From table 5, the study reveals that from 2011 through June 2014, out of 600 children, 101 children had lack of eye contact, 221 had no response of name, 373 children had poor speech, 118 had attention deficiency, 276 children had no toilet training, 161 had problem of peer interaction and 329 children had odd behavior. So, the finding shows that children had some common symptoms in their everyday life. The study consider, most three common symptoms from other common symptoms, while there were at least seven common symptoms that children had in their first visit to CNAC, BSMMU. But poor speech was most common symptom that almost all children had, second common symptom was odd behavior and lack of eye contact was third most common symptom.

Discussion

The present study found that poor speech was first common symptom (62%), second common symptom was odd behavior (55%), third was lack of eye contact (50%), fourth was problem of toilet training (46%), fifth was no response of name (37%), sixth was lack of peer interaction (27%) and seventh symptom was attention deficiency (19%). About 1 in 68 children has been

identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) according to estimates from CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. ASD is almost 5 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189). Studies in Asia, Europe, and North America have identified individuals with ASD with an average prevalence of about 1%. A study in South Korea reported a prevalence of 2.6%. About 1 in 6 children in the United States had a developmental disability in 2006-2008, ranging from mild disabilities such as speech and language impairments to serious developmental disabilities, such as intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, and autism⁷.

Conclusion

For this study, data were taken from 2011 through June 2014, Total data were 600 children. Their age limit was 2 to 10 years; they were taken Autism management by Autism Instructor. It noticed that, all children came in the first time as n new patient. Data was collected by observation of Autism, Instructor and information of parents or caregivers. These seven symptoms were considered as common symptoms by observation and information. These were lack of eye contact, no response of name, poor speech, attention deficiency, problem of toilet training, problem of peer interaction, and odd behavior. This study finds that poor speech was first common symptom (62%), second common symptom was odd behavior (55%), third was lack of eye contact (50%), fourth was problem of toilet training (46%), fifth was no response of name (37%), sixth was lack of peer interaction (27%) and seventh symptom was attention deficiency (19%). The main expectation of this study was, the parents/caregiver and other professionals become more conscious about the common symptom of Autism for the better improvement of the child.

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Table 1: Distribution of Data on Common Symptom of Children with Autism in 2011

Month	Lack of Eye Contact	No Response of name	Poor Speech	Attention Deficiency	ADL (Toilet Training)	Lack of Peer Interaction	Odd Behavior
January	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
February	5	4	3	0	1	1	0
March	8	4	13	2	10	7	6
April	18	7	12	2	15	14	17
May	6	6	8	2	7	6	9
June	4	3	6	0	5	4	3
July	9	7	10	2	6	7	10
August	24	18	21	8	11	12	16
September	8	7	11	4	7	3	7
October	6	3	12	3	1	7	7
November	6	2	10	4	10	5	5
December	5	4	7	3	5	3	4
Total	99	65	113	27	78	69	48

Table 2: Distribution of Data on Common Symptom of Children with Autism in 2012

Month	Lack of Eye Contact	No Response of name	Poor Speech	Attention Deficiency	ADL (Toilet Training)	Lack of Peer Interaction	Odd Behavior
January	8	6	6	0	8	6	3
February	9	5	14	2	11	5	9
March	7	5	10	4	10	6	9
April	5	4	8	1	7	4	10
May	10	9	11	4	10	4	22
June	10	6	13	6	6	4	13
July	9	8	13	3	10	4	8
August	1	1	3	1	2	0	3
September	4	5	5	3	6	3	4
October	4	8	3	4	4	1	7
November	8	4	10	4	4	2	10
December	12	8	20	3	13	10	16
Total	87	69	116	35	91	49	114

Table 3: Distribution of Data on Common Symptom of Children with Autism in 2013

Month	Lack of Eye Contact	No Response of name	Poor Speech	Attention Deficiency	ADL (Toilet Training)	Lack of Peer Interaction	Odd Behavior
January	10	9	11	4	15	5	14
February	4	5	5	2	6	3	5
March	9	7	5	4	7	4	5
April	7	4	8	0	8	4	3
May	6	4	9	2	9	2	7
June	11	5	10	2	6	5	9
July	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
August	4	6	8	5	4	0	6
September	4	4	6	0	4	0	6
October	6	2	11	2	6	1	10
November	4	5	9	5	3	1	8
December	2	2	2	2	0	0	1
Total	68	54	87	29	69	26	75

Table 4: Distribution of Data on Common Symptom of Children with Autism in 2014

Month	Lack of Eye Contact	No Response of name	Poor Speech	Attention Deficiency	ADL (Toilet Training)	Lack of Peer Interaction	Odd Behavior
January	5	3	9	2	5	2	6
February	6	5	11	6	6	2	11
March	11	9	10	5	8	5	8
April	7	6	6	3	4	2	4
May	10	6	12	7	7	3	14
June	8	4	12	4	8	3	13
Total	47	33	57	27	38	17	56

Table 5: Distribution of Data on Common Symptom of Children with Autism (2011- June 2014)

Year	Lack of Eye Contact	No Response of name	Poor Speech	Attention Deficiency	ADL (Toilet Training)	Lack of Peer Interaction	Odd Behavior
2011	99	65	113	27	78	69	84
2012	87	69	116	35	91	49	114
2013	68	54	87	29	69	26	75
2014	47	33	57	27	38	17	56
Total	301	221	373	118	276	161	329