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**Course Name: Mental Health Nursing** 

### Autistic Disorder



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#### **DEFINITION**

A pervasive developmental disorder defined by the presence of abnormal and/or impaired development that is manifest before the age of 3 years, and by the characteristic type of abnormal functioning in all three areas of social interaction, communication, and restricted, repetitive behaviour.

(International classification of disease- ICD 10)

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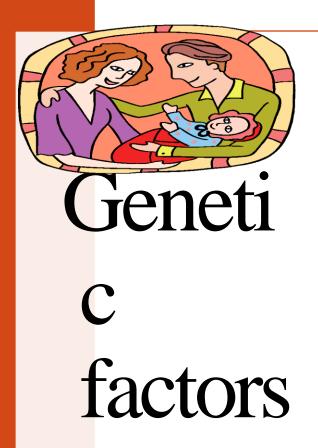
### **ETIOLOGY**



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- Family studies
- twin studies
- elevated platelet serotonin (5 HT)
- fragile X
  syndrome and X
  linked recessive
  disorder.

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## Immunological factors

Immunological incompatibility (maternal antibodies directed at the fetus) may contribute to autism.

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# Prenatal factors

- Advanced maternal age
- maternal gestational bleeding
- gestational diabetes

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## Perinatal factors

- Umbilical cord complication
- Birth trauma
- Fetal distress
- Small for gestational age
- Low birth weight
- RH incompatibility
- Hyperbilirubinemia.

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**Biomarkers** 

- elevated serotonin
- Increased total brain volume
- Greater amygdala hyper -arousal

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### ICD 10 Classification



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F. 84.0- CHILDHOOD AUTISM

receptive or expressive language as used in social communication.

Abnormal or impaired development is evident before the age of 3 years in at least one of the following areas

The development of selective social attachments or of reciprocal social interaction

Functional or symbolic play.

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#### **SIGN AND SYMPTOM**



Impaired social interaction & difficulty in relating with other people.

Difficulty in making eye contact





May cry alone instead of calling for mother

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May be vicious with their siblings

May strongly resist being held by, hugged and kissed by their parents and others.





Lack anticipatory posture (raising his arms) of being picked up by a caretaker.

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May show no response to interactive games like peek-a-boo

May not notice when their parent's come and go.





Dislike new experiences like birthday celebration

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Extremely difficult to bath these kids

They resist hair cuts



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Restricted, Repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests and activities.



Stare at rotating things like ceiling fans



Like spinning either self or other things like bottle





Keep things close to their face

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A simple change in routine makes them extremely anxious

Strange attachment to objects





Tendency of smearing their face even in their own faeces

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#### **TREATMENT**

Intervention s to manage autistic child

- Psychosocial intervention
- Pharmacological intervention
- Nursing intervention

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# Psychosocial intervention



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### Nursing Interventio n



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#### **Nursing Diagnosis**

- ☐ Risk for Self-Mutilation
- Impaired Social Interaction
- **Impaired Verbal Communication**
- Disturbed Personal Identity

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**Summary** 

Autism is one of the most common childhood developmental disorders, even more prevalent than Down syndrome. But because its origin is unknown and it encompasses a range of behaviors, working with a child with this disorder can be challenging. But early detection can increases the hope for better life expectancy and better adaptability of such childrens with their social environment

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