

7 Neurological Comorbidities in Autism Spectrum Disorder

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**Autism
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Abstract

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are at a high risk for multiple neurologic conditions, including epilepsy, sleep disturbances, and motor dysfunction. Clinicians should screen for these comorbidities because they are conditions that may have severe health consequences if left untreated. Addressing these problems can improve patients' daily functioning and even possibly their autistic symptomatology. These neurologic conditions are also interesting given their potential ability to shed light on the pathophysiology of ASD. This chapter discusses these neurologic comorbidities and their consequences, and it details some of the controversies in the field. It also describes the appropriate workup and initial treatment strategies for these comorbidities. Lastly, this chapter provides a brief description of the basic science research being conducted to investigate the association between these neurologic conditions and ASD.

Keywords: [Epilepsy](#), [insomnia](#), [sleep disorders](#), [gait disturbances](#), [motor problems](#)

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