

Autoimmune Encephalitis – A Treatable Form Of ‘Autism’

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Autoimmune encephalitis is a class of inflammatory diseases of the brain that can present with a wide spectrum of neurological and psychiatric symptoms. The word autoimmune means that the body, or the

person's
immune
system, is
attacking its
own healthy
tissues.

What has
autoimmu
ne
encephali
tis got to
do with
(regressiv
e) autism?

Short answer:
Possibly
everything.

Long answer:
Probably a lot, in
some cases. Or in
many cases. It is
highly likely that

some, or even many, cases of regressive autism are misdiagnosed cases of autoimmune encephalitis. Keep reading...

A reminder that, by most estimates, regressive forms of autism account for about one in three of all autism cases. Other data indicate that up to 50% of all children with autism experienced some level of loss of skills and increase in severity of symptoms early in life.

Approximately one in 60 children has autism: this could mean thousands and thousands of these could actually be cases of misdiagnosed

autoimmune
encephalitis.

Is this bad? And why?

This is very, very
bad. Simply
because
Autoimmune
Encephalitis (let's
call it AE from now
on) is in many
cases treatable.
Yes, that is correct.
There are
treatments out
there that can
reduce symptoms
of AE, and often
make it go away
completely.

To state the
obvious but crucial
implication: this
means that there
could be tens of
thousands, if not
hundreds of

thousands, of
children and adults
out there who have
been diagnosed
with 'autism'
whereas in fact
they suffered/are
still suffering from
AE. Suffering
needlessly.

This means that all
those thousands of
children and adults
are spending their
lives living with
severe autism, and
all the negative
consequences it
brings along,
whereas they in
fact could be
receiving
treatments for AE.

Getting better.

Functioning better.

*"A diagnosis of
pediatric AE should be*

*considered in
previously healthy
children who present
with acute or subacute
(less than 3 months)
onset of new focal or
diffuse neurologic
deficits, cognitive
difficulties,
developmental
regression, movement
abnormalities,
psychiatric symptoms,
and/or seizures."*

(‘Clinical approach to the
diagnosis of autoimmune
encephalitis in the pediatric
patient’ – Cellucci et al.
2020)

How
similar
are AE
symptoms
to
autism

symptoms?

Before we talk about what AE is and how similar it is to autism let's first pin down what autism is. Or isn't. As well as what the main symptoms and defining characteristics of autism are.

We must direct our attention towards regressive autism.

We need to focus on the forms of autism where a previously bubbly, chatty, typically developing child stops using words. Stops communicating altogether. Stops reacting to people. Pointing at things. Waving goodbye.

Responding to his
name.

Playing with his
toys.

Recognising her
surroundings.

Walking in a
straight line.

And the child starts
doing other strange
and disturbing
things. Like lining
up toys. Running
up and down.

Walking on tiptoes.

Screaming for long
stretches. Biting.

Vomiting. Banging
his head against
hard objects.

Twisting her little
body.

Losing balance and
falling over.

Repeating a single
sound. Sometimes
for hours.

Rocking in the

corner. Sometimes
for hours.

How autism is defined and diagnosed

The process of
autism diagnosis
can best be
described as a
scientifically
unfortunate event.

Why call it
scientifically or
even medically
unfortunate?
Because we simply
look at the surface
symptoms and
attach a label.

Lack of social
communication? ✓

Restrictive and
repetitive actions
and/or interests?
✓

Yes, we have
autism! Ta-da!!

Does anyone ask
what caused that
child to exhibit
those symptoms?
Well, no.

When a diagnosis
of autism is given
there is almost
never investigation
to rule out what
possible reasons
there might be for
that child not being
able to
communicate. Not
being able to learn
with ease. Not
being able to NOT
bang his head. For
not being able to
NOT scream,
sometimes for
hours. For not
being able to stop
biting herself (or
others).

The reasoning,
such as it is, goes
like this: at some
point, parents and
medical

professionals
noticed children
who suffered the
kind of symptoms
listed above – loss
of skills,
regressions,
physical problems
appearing – and
that was called
autism.

Now, each time a
child presents with
these complex,
worrying, life-
altering symptoms,
we use this same
shorthand: autism.
A label, not a
diagnosis.

Perhaps some will
murmur something
about it being
genetic, more
common than it
once was, provide a
list of resources,
but essentially the
label is provided
and the health care
system moves on.

Next, please.



Hypothetically, if thousands of forty year olds lost the ability to communicate, started banging their heads, withdrew to the extent they could not perform their jobs, do you believe their symptoms would warrant medical investigations?

Yes, we do too.

So why don't we treat each case of unexplained regression in the same way, regardless of the

age of the affected individual?

Especially since it is well known that genes themselves cannot account for all, or even MOST, of autism cases, and all levels of severity of autism.

Especially since we now know that identical twins with a history of early medical problems have much higher rates of autism compared to their genetically identical siblings who did not experience such negative health events.

Especially since it is well known that some infections can attack the human brain and cause symptoms and behaviours

that are identical to the very symptoms and behaviours we use to diagnose autism.

Especially since we know there is a significant association between autistic regression and family history of autoimmunity.

"...developmental regression, language loss or speech impairments may be presenting features of pediatric AE. Behavioral changes, such as repetitive or stereotypical behaviors, irritability, hyperactivity, hypersexuality, insomnia and anger outbursts, are common in pediatric AE"

(‘Clinical approach to the diagnosis of autoimmune encephalitis in the pediatric patient’ – Cellucci et al. 2020)

Are you trying to say that we don’t really know what autism is, below the surface?

Exactly.

We don’t and it is alarming that most people don’t seem to care. We can describe autism from the outside – we can list the surface symptoms and behaviours. This is what the official diagnosis consists of, a list of surface symptoms and behaviours.

But there has been an incomprehensible lack of curiosity and investigation into what causes these symptoms and behaviours, especially in cases of frank regression into those symptoms and behaviours after typical development.

In each case of autism, regressive and otherwise, there could be multiple underlying reasons driving symptoms and behaviours. We just don't know what they are in most cases because we so very, very rarely investigate.

You don't see things until you look. Refusal to

look doesn't mean
something isn't
there.

What do we know about AE – its surface symptom s and causes?

In stark contrast to
autism, here we
have a disorder
with a set of
common
symptoms and
behaviours, and
pretty solid
knowledge on what
is driving them.

Pretty solid
treatment options,
too.

And here is an

important thing –
many, if not all,
symptoms and
behaviours that are
on the AE
checklists also
frequently pop up
in autism.
Especially in
regressive forms of
autism.

So how
do we
know
that
some
cases of
autism
are not
misdiagn
osed AE?

We don't. We just
don't know.

Not because the

answer is
unknowable but
because we do not
look for answers.

What AE
symptoms
should
(but
never do)
serve as
red flags
for ruling
out AE in
children
with
(misdiagnosed?)
autism?

Myoclonus

Muscle twitches
(but not tics).
Officially described

as sudden, brief,
shock-like,
involuntary
twitching or jerking
of muscles.

Jerks or twitches
can be variable in
intensity and
frequency. They
can be localised to
one muscle or a
group of muscles in
one part of the
body, or spread all
over the body. They
can occur in a
sequence or singly,
many times each
minute or
infrequently.

How common are
such sudden jerks
and twitches in
(severe and/or
regressive) autism?

It would probably
be easier to count
children with
regressive autism
whose parents

report an absence
of some degree of
myoclonus, rather
than its presence
at some point in
their child's history.

It is that common.

On the other hand
we don't have
precise numbers
and statistics. No
one has bothered
to count.

Dystonia

Sustained or
repetitious
muscular
contractions that
cause twisting,
unusual positioning
or repetitive
stereotyped
movements.

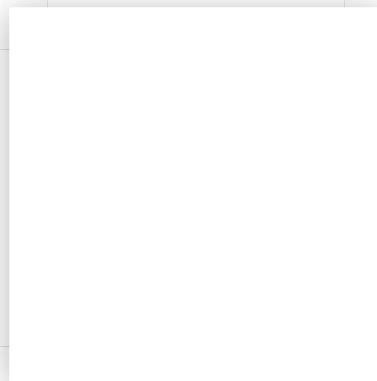
Read that again.

Unusual
positioning.
Abnormal limb
postures. Twisting

of arms or legs.
Repetitive muscle
movements.

How common are
those in (severe
and/or regressive)
autism?

Quite common, in
fact. Most parents
of children and
adults with severe
autism would have
frequently
observed their
child in an
abnormal posture,
twisting their body,
perhaps like this:



Dystonia may also
manifest as:

- loss of muscle

- coordination
- gait impairment
- dropping items
- muscle pain
and/or cramping
- difficulty finding
a comfortable
position
- trembling/spasmi
ng in the
diaphragm while
breathing
- difficulty
swallowing
- disturbed sleep
- exhaustion
- poor
concentration
- blurred vision
- digestive
problems
- short temper
- hyperventilation
(fast breathing)
- **blepharospasm**
(involuntary
twitching,
blinking or
closure of
eyelids)

Each of the above
symptoms are
common in severe,
regressive autism.

And some of them
– like loss of muscle
coordination,
disturbed sleep,
exhaustion, poor
concentration,
digestive problems
and short
temper/irritability
are extremely
common.

Orofacial Dyskinesia (Tardive Dyskinesia)

Involuntary and
abnormal
movements of the
jaw, lips and
tongue. Typical
symptoms include
facial grimacing,
sticking out the
tongue, sucking or
fish-like
movements of the
mouth.

While these odd
movements are
mostly limited to

the mouth, face,
jaw, and tongue,
symptoms of
tardive dystonia
also include slower,
twisting
movements of
larger muscles of
the neck and trunk.
In some cases, the
arms and/or legs
may also be
affected by
involuntary rapid,
jerking movements
(chorea), or slow,
writhing
movements
(athetosis).

It is not uncommon
to observe children
(and adults) with
severe and/or
regressive autism
carry out
movements like
these:



Aphasia/mutism—also known as loss of language

Aphasia is a language disorder, affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write.

The significance of this is, of course, impossible to overstate. Loss of previously acquired language is the hallmark of regressive autism.

People have tried to untangle the relationship between autism and 'pure' aphasia as far back as the 1970's, but could not get very far.

Seizures

(including
'invisible'
Absence
seizures)

Those can look like
this:



Or this:



Also see:



Other
symptoms of
AE that could
serve as
'misdiagnosis
red flags' to
initiate
investigation
in regressive

autism

- changes in behaviour and mood, especially irritability, anxiety, agitation
- cognitive impairment
- changes in speech patterns or (in)ability to form sounds
- insomnia
- fever
- loss of eye contact
- decreased appetite
- sensory disturbances: sensitivity to light, sound and touch.
- headache
- inconsolable crying
- urinary incontinence
- self-harming behaviour (e.g. self-biting)
- difficulty swallowing

All of these
symptoms
frequently appear
during the onset of
regressive autism.

*"Parents described
temper tantrums,
behavioral change,
agitation, aggression,
and progressive speech
deterioration as initial
symptoms; however,
these behaviors in
children can initially be
overlooked."*

(‘NMDAR encephalitis in
children and adolescents’ –
Florance et al. 2010)

Importan
ce of
distinguis
hing

features and symptoms of autoimmune encephalitis in children versus adults

AE manifests differently in children versus adults. In teenagers and adults the main symptoms are in almost all cases of psychiatric nature, such as psychosis, delusions and hallucinations, which are often absent in children.

AE in adults is also often associated with a tumour, which is a rare finding in children with AE.

In contrast, movement disorders and seizures are significantly more common in children, and so are irritability, anxiety and inconsolable crying, and loss of eye contact and interest in surroundings.

In very young children/toddlers one of the first red flags for suspicion of AE is movement and gait abnormalities – unsteady walking and loss of balance.

“This case series demonstrates a novel clinical phenotype of gait disturbance as an initial symptom in children <3 years old with anti-NMDAR encephalitis...Gait disturbance should raise the concern for anti-NMDAR encephalitis in young children.

(‘Gait disturbance as the presenting symptom in young children with anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis’ – Yeshokumar et al. 2016)

“Paediatric patients with AE were more likely to present with psychiatric symptoms, sleep disturbances, focal seizures, and/or status epilepticus compared to adults ($p < 0.05$). Insomnia and hypersomnia are common sleep problems associated

with AE that should be screened early in the diagnostic evaluation.”

(‘Clinical features of paediatric and adult autoimmune encephalitis: A multicenter sample’ – Roliz et al. 2021)

“In conclusion, we believe that NMDAR encephalitis is probably underreported in infants and toddlers. This case, initially presenting with behavioral changes and autistic features, highlights the diagnostic challenges presenting in this age group.

(‘Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis in a toddler: A diagnostic challenge’ – Khundakji et al. 2018)

“Differences between paediatric and adult AE have become increasingly

recognized...While adults typically present with isolated, well-defined clinical syndromes, children often demonstrate multifocal neuropsychiatric symptoms that may overlap with other diseases. Young children may not be able to describe their symptoms, which can complicate diagnosis and delay management.

Additionally, paediatric AE is less likely to be associated with tumors than in adults, and the autoimmune profile between children and adults varies, with children more commonly testing positive for NMDAR antibody or negative for any known autoantibody.”

(‘Clinical features of

paediatric and adult
autoimmune encephalitis: A
multicenter sample' – Roliz
et al. 2021)

Autoimm une Psychosis vs Autoimm une Encephali tis

While most
individuals with AE
show neurological
symptoms such as
seizures, cognitive
dysfunction, and
movement
disorders, in some
AE patients the
predominant
symptoms are of
behavioural and
psychiatric or

psychotic nature.

On the other hand, psychosis and other psychiatric disorders frequently occur in patients with autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus and multiple sclerosis. This association is thought to be linked to inflammation and/or antibodies present in autoimmune diseases having an effect on brain function.

In other words, there is a clear overlap between psychosis and pathological processes associated with inflammation and (auto)immunologic

al dysregulation.

This clear overlap has prompted scientists to suggest that some cases of psychosis could be (auto)immune in origin.

Recent research has demonstrated that some individuals with psychotic disorders do have a specific autoantibody-mediated disease called autoimmune psychosis (AP). Accordingly, treatments aimed at AE—steroids, IVIG, plasmapheresis, rituximab—often lead to significant improvement or disappearance of psychotic symptoms in those patients.

But what has psychosis , or schizophrenia, got to do with autism?

The line between autism and schizophrenia, or autism and psychosis, is a very thin and blurry one.

The cluster of symptoms we call 'autism' today used to be termed 'childhood-onset schizophrenia'. Even well into the 1970 researchers were still publishing papers

on 'childhood
schizoid disorder',
what we now call
autism.

Psychosis is
defined as a period
of abnormal
perceptions
(hallucinations) and
distortions of
reality (delusions).
The person can't
tell what's real
from what's
imagined. Such
psychotic episodes
are the hallmark of
schizophrenia.

But it's significant
to note that
schizophrenia also
includes these
symptoms:

- poor executive
functioning (eg
understanding
and following
instructions)
- focusing/paying
attention
- forgetting or

losing things

- working memory
(using new
information
immediately
after learning it)
- communication
difficulties (not
speaking, or
disorganised
speech: uttering
words and
sentences that
don't make
sense, jumping
from one subject
to another)
- lack of energy
- irritability and
agitation
- lack of
motivation and
interest in
surroundings
- repeating
movements or
gestures
- sensory
processing
problems
- avoidance of eye
contact
- social withdrawal

All of the above

symptoms of schizophrenia are very frequent in autism, especially in individuals on the severe/profound end of the autism spectrum. In other words almost all of the common symptoms of schizophrenia overlap with autism.

All apart from hallucinations and delusions.

But, wait a minute!
How would we know?

How would we be able to tell if a person affected with severe non-verbal autism is experiencing hallucinations?
How could we know if they can

tell what is real, or not real, especially if they are very young and have experienced these hallucinations for years? Unless a person could communicate with some nuance, could they share any delusions they might have experienced, be experiencing?

When research looks at people with less severe autism, those able to communicate, we find much higher rates of schizophrenia. Like, three or four times higher.

If a person with severe autism who could not reliably communicate was experiencing altered perceptions

of reality could
those around him
or her know this?

If a person with
autism tried to
express their
feelings and
experiences
through
behaviours, would
we simply call
those 'autistic
behaviours' and
move on?

Sadly, very likely
the answer is yes.

But what
do we
know
about the
causes of
psychosis
?

Short answer:
Mixed bag, same as

autism.

What we do know
is that the family
history of
autoimmunity
significantly
increases the risk
of psychoses, same
as with autism (see
above).

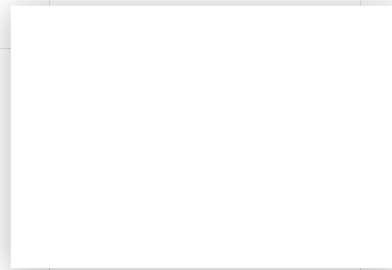
We also know that
maternal/prenatal
infections are
associated with
offspring psychosis.
Same as autism.

We also know that
the risk of
psychotic disorders
in maternal
infections is several
times higher for
male children.
Same as autism.

We also know that
there is evidence of
increased
activation and
density of
microglia, the

immune cells in the brain. Same as autism.

As for autoimmune psychosis, it is thought to be triggered by central nervous system infections.



So how do we know that some cases of (regressive, severe) 'autism'

are not in
fact
misdiagn
osed
cases of
autoimm
une
psychosis
?

We don't.

We never look.

Diagnosi
ng AE
and AP

//

Investigations for
diagnosing AE and
AP can include
brain MRI and EEG,
as well as blood
and cerebrospinal
fluid tests for
markers of

inflammation and presence of certain brain-specific antibodies.

However, negative test results for autoimmune antibodies do not rule out AE or AP. A significant percentage of AE cases, especially children, are suspected to be caused by antibodies for which a diagnostic test is not yet available, or by antibodies yet to be discovered. Because of this gap in knowledge, specific diagnostic criteria for “antibody negative” autoimmune encephalitis have also been defined.

Recent [clinical guidelines for](#)

diagnosing AE in
children state that:

"A diagnosis of paediatric AE should be considered in previously healthy children who present with acute or subacute (less than three months) onset of neurologic deficits, cognitive difficulties, developmental regression, movement abnormalities, psychiatric symptoms, and/or seizures. A normal EEG is unusual in children with AE during active disease, although prolonged EEG may be needed for improved sensitivity.

Therefore, focal or generalized seizures, epileptiform discharges, and encephalopathic changes, such as diffuse or focal slowing, may help to distinguish AE from primary psychiatric disorders

...Adults with AE are more likely to have EEG changes predominantly involving the temporal lobes, whereas EEG findings in children may be more generalized.

Specific EEG features, such as the “delta brush” pattern and extreme spindles, have been linked

to anti-NMDAR encephalitis, but sensitivity is low. The most common autoantibodies identified in children target NMDAR, MOG, GAD65, and GABAAR... Given the rarity of other autoantibodies, further testing should be considered only if antibodies to these targets are negative and suspicion of AE persists... Antibody testing should be performed in both CSF and serum to avoid false-negative and false-positive results.” (Cellucci et al. 2020)

Treating AE and AP

Treatments include immunotherapies such as steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), plasmapheresis, rituximab.

Interestingly enough, some of those treatments have also been shown to reduce the core symptoms of autism.

A recent study of 40 children with autism, carried out by Rocha-Brito and colleagues, has shown corticosteroid prednisone to be an effective treatment for

improving social
communication
and language
impairments in
children with
regressive autism.

Similarly, several
small scale trials,
like the one by
Melamed and
colleagues, have
demonstrated that
IVIg treatment can
be effective at
reducing core
symptoms of
autism in a
subgroup of
children.

*“Follow-up during the
next six months
necessitated monthly
IVIg. Several relapses
occurred during
treatment, manifesting
as a reemergence of
her irritability,
insomnia and poor eye*

contact. She received plasma exchange during her second and third relapses, in addition to rituximab. A dramatic improvement in her social skills and irritability appeared within hours following plasma exchange."

(‘Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis in a toddler: A diagnostic challenge’ – Khundakji et al. 2018)

So what
needs to
happen
to make
sure AE
and AP
are never
misdiagn
osed as

'autism'?

More awareness.
Less labelling and
more diagnosing.
More listening to
parents. Less
rejection of their
observations.

More genuine
concern for
patients. And more
professional
curiosity.

According to the
Hippocratic Oath,
doctors should
*"apply, for the
benefit of the sick,
all measures [that]
are required,
avoiding those twin
traps of
overtreatment and
therapeutic
nihilism."*

One could argue
that labelling
everything as just
'autism', dismissing

the possibility
those symptoms
may point to a
potentially
treatable condition,
and refusing to
engage in
differential
diagnosis
is extreme
therapeutic
nihilism.

Sentencing a
patient to a lifetime
of suffering and
disability that
results from a
treatable condition,
on the other hand,
sounds like the
opposite of "*do no
harm*".

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Brain Glucose and Glycogen in Autism: Speech, Seizures, Sleep & Beyond

The following

**Autism and
metabolic
diseases –
more treatable
'autisms'
hiding in plain
sight?**

Aggression In Autism – One Simple Cause

In addition to the
core symptoms of
autism, which
include social

article is written by an autism parent and researcher, who has an interest in both autism and sports sciences. It lays out possible underlying reasons for some of the struggles and symptoms associated with autism. It is not possible to say who might...

Metabolism is the process through which our bodies convert nutrients from food and drink into energy. We need energy for the basics of life, such as breathing or blood circulation, and so countless metabolic processes take place in our cells and our organs all the...

communication difficulties, restricted interests, and sensory processing difficulties, both children and adults with autism often present with many other 'autism-related' symptoms and behaviours....

Depression in Autism – More Than Meets The Eye?

High rates of depression and suicide in autism
Depression is a common and serious problem in autism, and one of

'From Bench to Biopharma' International Conference on Translational Research in Autism – Day 1 Recap

Synchrony symposia,

NEW UK Autism Research Hub: The Synapse Centre for Neurodevelopment ESNEFT

The Synapse Centre for Neurodevelopment
The Synapse Centre, based within the ESNEFT (East Suffolk and

the main contributors to poor quality of life. Both children and adults with autism experience high rates of depression and other mood disorders. One...

Addressing Poor Health & High Death Rates in Autism

"We must first recognise ASD as a whole body disorder" Autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder ASD, is traditionally seen as the result of behavioural and neuropsychiatric dysfunction. However there is a

organised by The BRAIN Foundation in partnership with UC Davis MIND Institute and CalTech, is the first and only international conference on translational research in autism that brings together academia, biotech, pharmaceutical companies and...

Synchrony 2019 – Translational Research in Autism symposia

The first Brain Foundation annual symposia, Pleasanton,

North Essex NHS Foundation Trust) is a new research centre based in the East of England looking to translate biomedical research into practical therapies for local...

Transcranial direct current stimulation tDCS – a novel treatment for autism?

One of the treatment modalities that has shown the greatest promise for reducing symptoms of autism in recent years is transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS).

strong evidence
that various
physical, or
biomedical,
problems can...

Cannabis for Treating Core and Comorbid Autism Symptoms – Where are we at?

Several studies
published in recent
months
investigated the
effects of cannabis-
based products for
treating autism.
Although the
studies were open-
label and relatively
small in scale, the
overall results were
overwhelmingly
positive, with

California 8-10 of
Nov 2019, aimed to
connect
researchers with
clinicians, donors &
stake holders to
help translate
research efforts
into evidence-based
treatments for
autism and its co-
morbidities. It
highlighted the
need for
multidisciplinary
collaboration,
detailed diagnostics
and personalised
treatment...

Century-old drug offers new hope for autism treatment

A small double-
blind, placebo-

The most recent
study confirmed
and expanded on
the findings of
previous
investigations,
which strongly
indicate that tDCS
could have positive
effects on
cognition,
behaviour and
physical health, and
improve quality of
life and autonomy
for a large
percentage of
individuals with
autism.

Higher rates of autism in children with various congenital disorders

Children with

statistically significant improvements in social communication, language, restrictive/repetitive and challenging behaviours.

controlled trial shows dramatic effects of suramin as a treatment for autism. Improvements were seen in all three core features of autism: language, social interactions, and restricted or repetitive behaviours across multiple diagnostics in multiple tests in all who received the active treatments, absent in the placebo arm

Congenital Heart Disease, Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Neurofibromatosis Type 1 suffer high rates of autism. Everolimus, an mTOR inhibitor with strong neuro-inflammation attenuating effects, reduces core autism symptoms in some children with TSC, epilepsy and autism...

4 Comments

Anthony ngugi on 13th April 2021 at 8:44 am

[Reply](#)

Hi..Anthony here with an autistic boy
13years .How is IViG administered ans how
is the availability of the same

Pauline on 12th June 2022 at 2:05 pm

[Reply](#)

Hi, thank you for your broad information. I
have a 13 year old non verbal child. How
can he be assisted with the treatment of
Immuno therapies, JViG to reduce the core
symptoms of autism eg social and
language impairment, ability to read and
write, loss of eye contact etc

Frazer on 26th June 2022 at 12:17 pm

[Reply](#)

Hey, I am one of the many out there who
have regressed into a fully-blown Autistic
state. I've known since day one that
'Autism' is the END RESULT of
PATHOLOGY. Me, as an individual
organism with my unique neurochemistry
has ZERO pathology to show for my
Autism, despite my subjective experience
and my affect.

What brought me to your website was
encephalitis/encephalopathy. I KNOW my
immune system isn't right. WHY? Because
every time I use CBD and activate those
CB2 receptors in the periphery, I am bed

bound with vomiting, sickness behaviour and vomiting. What else have I noticed? GABA and GLUTAMATE! THC activates the CB1 receptors and inhibits intracellular calcium which gives me INSTANT (WITHIN SECONDS) relief of SEVERE sensory issues. I was house-bound after my brain was ruined by Venlafaxine (an SNRI) which led to my brain unable to tolerate a humming sound, let alone use a phone or watch TV or read. Pure silence just left to rot until I started using cannabis. I can laugh, enjoy music, and I don't shut up, whereas I am not far from mute. My brain literally has nothing to say.

I regressed at age 21 after a period of INTENSE exercise (boxing) and now I'm 28. Misdiagnosed with ME/CFS, but on paper all my symptoms match. According to time and dates, it's wrong. I've been punched which broke my jaw at 14 and I had whiplash in a car crash a year before.

I genuinely believe my body is going through a state of 'immuno-excito-toxicity' or something similar. These are my symptoms now at age 28:

. Can't tolerate much eye contact (wear sunglasses in the rain and in public)

- . Limbic system activation (fear) when I accidentally make eye contact with people.
- . Decrease in executive functioning (frontal issues)
- . Constant cortical pressure at the front of my brain (feels bruised)
- . Unable to make decisions (especially on the spot)
- . Hand deformity (x-ray says it's normal, but it isn't)
- . ADULT-ONSET paranoia and delusions (I genuinely believe these assholes want people to be unwell and they don't give a fuck about anyone UNLESS there's profit.
- . Severe muscle fatigue (ATP issues triggered by intense exercise)
- . Anhedonia

These are a few symptoms that came to me. Parents, love your children and KNOW that THEY are right, not you. ALWAYS listen. Our brains aren't like yours, so stop projecting your desires on your child. COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WIRING. This isn't a MIND thing. It's not a WILL thing either. The 'mind' and the 'will' are an END PRODUCT of neurochemistry, not the beginning.



Where can I find a clinic and or Doctor to guide me in testing my 5yr old son for regressive ASD? He was a perfectly normal child until age 3.5. He lost all communication, stopped responding to his name. Became agitated and aggressive, lost eye contact. He had a seizure around age 2.5.

[Reply](#)



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07518131697

