

# Autism

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## Information on Autism

▶ **Definition. Pervasive developmental disorder - autism; Autistic spectrum disorder > Autism is a developmental disorder that appears in the first 3 years of life, and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills.**

SOURCE >> [Autism - National Library of Medicine - PubMed Health](#)

**Autism is one of a group of serious developmental problems called autism spectrum disorders that appear in early childhood – usually before age 3. Though symptoms and severity vary, all autism spectrum disorders affect a child's ability to communicate and interact with others.** The number of children diagnosed with autism appears to be rising. It's not clear whether this is due to better detection and reporting of autism or a real increase in the number of cases or both. SOURCE >> [Autism Definition - Diseases and Conditions - Mayo Clinic](#)

**Autism is a developmental disorder that appears in the first 3 years of life, and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills. Once a very rare developmental disorder, affecting only five out of every 10,000 children, autism spectrum disorders have increased dramatically over the past few decades.** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now estimate that one in every 110 children will be born with some form of autism. Though it is not known why, the number of boys diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders outnumbers girls, four to one. Here you'll find the necessary information needed to gain a basic understanding of autism spectrum disorders. SOURCE >> [AllRefer Health - Autism \(Pervasive developmental disorder](#)

**What Is Autism? | Autism spectrum disorders are a set of developmental disorders that are usually diagnosed in children between birth and three years old. Diagnosing autism spectrum disorders can be difficult and can require several trips to a pediatrician who specializes in child development.** Autism spectrum disorders have similar symptoms, but can vary greatly in severity. Because of this children are often evaluated and tested extensively before they are officially placed "on the spectrum" as it is known. SOURCE >> [Autism - SymptomFind.com: Your New Health](#)

## [Companion](#)

▶ **Causes, incidence, and risk factors.** Autism is a physical condition linked to abnormal biology and chemistry in the brain. The exact causes of these abnormalities remain unknown, but this is a very active area of research. There are probably a combination of factors that lead to autism. SOURCE >> [AllRefer Health - Autism \(Pervasive developmental disorder\)](#)

**Genetic factors seem to be important. For example, identical twins are much more likely than fraternal twins or siblings to both have autism. Similarly, language abnormalities are more common in relatives of autistic children. Chromosomal abnormalities and other nervous system (neurological) problems are also more common in families with autism. A number of other possible causes have been suspected, but not proven. They involve:**

- **Diet**
- **Digestive tract changes**
- **Mercury poisoning**
- **The body's inability to properly use vitamins and minerals**
- **Vaccine sensitivity**

▶ **AUTISM AND VACCINES | Many parents are worried that some vaccines are not safe and may harm their baby or young child. They may ask their doctor or nurse to wait, or even refuse to have the vaccine. However, it is important to also think about the risks of not having the vaccination. Some people believe that the small amount of mercury (called thimerosal) that is a common preservative in multidose vaccines causes autism or ADHD. However, studies have NOT shown this risk to be true.** The American Academy of Pediatrics, and The Institute of Medicine (IOM) agree that no vaccine or component of any vaccine is responsible for the number of children who are currently being diagnosed with autism. They conclude that the benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks. All of the routine childhood vaccines are available in single-dose forms that do not contain added mercury. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website provides further information.

▶ **Causes & Risk Factors: | What causes autism? >> Doctors**

aren't sure what causes autism. Some studies have shown that the cause is genetic (runs in families). Certain medical problems or something in your child's surroundings may also play a role. In many cases, the cause of a child's autism is never known. Boys are more likely than girls to have autism. As doctors continue to study autism, they may learn more about what causes it.

**Can vaccines cause autism? >> No. Good research has shown that there is no link between autism and childhood vaccinations ("shots") such as the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.** Vaccines are an important part of your child's health. If you have concerns about the safety of vaccines, talk to your doctor.

**My baby seemed fine. Why does he or she seem to have autism now? >> We don't know why it happens, but approximately 20% of children who have autism seem to develop normally for the first 1 to 2 years of their lives. Then, these babies experience what doctors call a regression. This means that they lose abilities that they had before, such as the ability to talk.**

Next: Diagnosis & Tests ... By Symptom; Prevention & Wellness.

SOURCE >> [Autism | Causes & Risk Factors -- FamilyDoctor.org](#)

► **HOW MANY CHILDREN HAVE AUTISM? | The exact number of children with autism is not known. A report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that autism and related disorders are more common than previously thought. It is unclear whether this is due to an increasing rate of the illness or an increased ability to diagnose the illness. Autism affects boys more often than girls. Family income, education, and lifestyle do not seem to affect the risk of autism.** Some doctors believe the increased incidence in autism is due to newer definitions of autism. The term "autism" now includes a wider spectrum of children. For example, a child who is diagnosed with high-functioning autism today may have been thought to simply be odd or strange 30 years ago. Other pervasive developmental disorders include:

- **Asperger syndrome** (like autism, but with normal language development)
- **Rett syndrome** (very different from autism, and almost always occurs in females)
- **Childhood disintegrative disorder** (rare condition where a child learns skills, then loses them by age 10)

- **Pervasive developmental disorder** - not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), also called atypical autism

**SOURCE >>** [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)

▶ **Prevalence | 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. [Read article] ASD is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. 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 autism. **SOURCE >>** [CDC | Data and Statistics | Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#)

▶ **Symptoms.** There is great variation in the symptoms of autism spectrum disorders. No two children with autism are the same, which contributes to the difficulty in treating the condition. There are three main areas in which children with autism have difficulties; social skills, language and behavior. **SOURCE >>** [Autism - SymptomFind.com: Your New Health Companion](#)

▶ **Most parents of autistic children suspect that something is wrong by the time the child is 18 months old and seek help by the time the child is age 2.** Children with autism typically have difficulties in:

- **Pretend play**
- **Social interactions**
- **Verbal and nonverbal communication**

▶ **Some children with autism appear normal before age 1 or 2 and then suddenly "regress" and lose language or social skills they had previously gained.** This is called the regressive type of autism. People with autism may:

- **Be overly sensitive in sight hearing touch smell or taste**

(for example, they may refuse to wear "itchy" clothes and become distressed if they are forced to wear the clothes)

- **Have unusual distress when routines are changed**
- **Perform repeated body movements**
- **Show unusual attachments to objects**
- **The symptoms may vary from moderate to severe.**
- **Communication problems may include:**
- **Cannot start or maintain a social conversation**
- **Communicates with gestures instead of words**
- **Develops language slowly or not at all**
- **Does not adjust gaze to look at objects that others are looking at**
- **Does not refer to self correctly** (for example, says "you want water" when the child means "I want water")
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- **Does not point to direct others' attention to objects (occurs in the first 14 months of life)**
- **Repeats words or memorized passages, such as commercials**

▶ **Social interaction:**

- **Does not make friends**
- **Does not play interactive games**
- **Is withdrawn**
- **May not respond to eye contact or smiles, or may avoid eye contact**
- **May treat others as if they are objects**
- **Prefers to spend time alone, rather than with others**
- **Shows a lack of empathy**
- **Response to sensory information:**
- **Does not startle at loud noises**

- **Has heightened or low senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, or taste**
- **May find normal noises painful and hold hands over ears**
- **May withdraw from physical contact because it is overstimulating or overwhelming**
- **Rubs surfaces, mouths or licks objects**
- **Seems to have a heightened or low response to pain**

▶ **Play:**

- **Doesn't imitate the actions of others**
- **Prefers solitary or ritualistic play**
- **Shows little pretend or imaginative play**

▶ **Behaviors:**

- **"Acts up" with intense tantrums**
- **Gets stuck on a single topic or task (perseveration)**
- **Has a short attention span**
- **Has very narrow interests**
- **Is overactive or very passive**
- **Shows aggression to others or self**
- **Shows a strong need for sameness**
- **Uses repetitive body movements**

**SOURCE >> [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)**

▶ **Diagnosis | Lead tests Autism screening tests ... Types of Autism; Causes of Autism; Risk Factors for Autism; Risk factors for Autism including risk behaviors, ... Diagnosis for Autism; Diagnostic Tests for Autism; ... Symptoms; Types; Causes; Tests; Prognosis; ... hidden medical causes of Autism, risk factors, and what causes ... Diagnosis & Tests for Autism. ... following as having Autism as a**

symptom of that condition: SOURCE >> [Risk Factors for Autism - RightDiagnosis.com - Right Diagnosis Autism Symptoms, Diagnosis, Treatments and Causes](http://RightDiagnosis.com - Right Diagnosis Autism Symptoms, Diagnosis, Treatments and Causes)

► **Alternative diagnoses list for Autism: For a diagnosis of Autism, the following list of conditions have been mentioned in sources as possible alternative diagnoses to consider during the diagnostic process for Autism:**

- **Pervasive Developmental Disorder**
- **Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified - PDD:NOS**
- **Asperger syndrome**
- **Childhood disintegrative disorder**
- **Rett syndrome**
- **Deafness** - social response may be impaired because of hearing difficulty.
- **Hearing loss**
- **Schizophrenia** - though usually schizophrenia arises later in life than autism.
- **Language delay**
- **Language disorder**
- **Speech delay** (see Speech symptoms)
- **Developmental delay** (see Developmental problems)
- **Selective Mutism**
- **Mental retardation**
- **Stereotypic movement disorder**

▶ **Diseases for which Autism may be an alternative diagnosis** | The other diseases for which Autism is listed as a possible alternative diagnosis in their lists include:

- **ADHD**
- **Asperger syndrome**
- **Auditory Processing Disorder**
- **Childhood disintegrative disorder**
- **Landau-Kleffner Syndrome**
- **Rett's syndrome**
- **Schizoid Personality Disorder**
- **Schizotypal Personality Disorder**

▶ **Autism: Hidden Causes Misdiagnosed?** | Causes of Autism may include these medical conditions:

- **Rett syndrome**
- **Fragile X syndrome - found in about 10% of autism cases.**
- **Tuberous sclerosis - about 25% of autistics.**
- **Phenylketonuria** more causes...»
- **Autism: Medical Mistakes**
- **Related medical mistakes may include:**
- **Concentration** – Health Mistakes
- **ADHD** – Health Mistakes
- **ADHD (Adults)** – Health Mistakes



- **Depression** -- Health Mistakes
- **Bipolar** -- Health Mistakes
- **Sleep Disorders -- Health Mistakes** more mistakes...»

► **Autism: Undiagnosed Conditions** - Commonly undiagnosed conditions in related areas may include;

- **Brain & Neurological Disorders:** Undiagnosed:
- **Adult ADHD** -- Undiagnosed - Often remains undiagnosed through to adulthood.
- **ADHD** -- Undiagnosed
- **Alzheimer Disease** -- Undiagnosed
- **Migraine** -- Undiagnosed
- **Concentration Disorders** -- Undiagnosed
- **Stroke** -- Undiagnosed
- **Bipolar Disorder** -- Undiagnosed
- **Schizophrenia** -- Undiagnosed
- **Epilepsy** -- **Undiagnosed** more undiagnosed conditions...»

► **Discussion of diagnosis/misdiagnosis of Autism:** Specialists may also consider other conditions that produce many of the same behaviors and symptoms as autism, such as Rett's Disorder or Asperger's Disorder. Rett's Disorder is a progressive brain disease that only affects girls but, like autism, produces repetitive hand movements and leads to loss of language and social skills. Children with Asperger's Disorder are very like high-functioning children with autism. Although they have repetitive behaviors, severe social problems, and clumsy movements, their language and intelligence are usually intact. Unlike

autism, the symptoms of Asperger's Disorder typically appear later in childhood. (Source: excerpt from Autism: NIMH)

▶ **Common Misdiagnoses and Autism | Mild worm infections undiagnosed in children:** Human worm infestations, esp. threadworm, can be overlooked in some cases, because it may cause only mild or even absent symptoms. Although the most common symptoms are anal itch (or vaginal itch), which are obvious in severe cases, milder conditions may fail to be noticed in children. In particular, it may interfere with the child's good night's sleep. Threadworm is a condition to consider in children with symptoms such as bedwetting (enuresis), difficulty sleeping, irritability, or other sleeping symptoms. Visual inspection of the region can often see the threadworms, at night when they are active, but they can also be missed this way, and multiple inspections can be warranted if worms are suspected. See the introduction to threadworm.

▶ **Parental fears about toddler behavior often unfounded:** There are many behaviors in infants and toddlers that may give rise to a fear that the child has some form of mental health condition. In particular, there is a loss of fear of autism or ADHD in parents. However, parents should understand that the chances are higher that it's part of normal development, and perhaps just a "cute behavior" rather than a serious condition. Although parents should be vigilant about monitoring all aspects of their child's development and mental health, they should also take care not to over-worry and miss out on some of the delights of parenthood. For example, a young child that screams when you open his car door to take him out, then makes you put him back into the car to repeat it, so that he can open the car door himself, is not necessarily showing signs of autism or OCD, nor indeed any mental illness. There is a small possibility that it's an abnormality (a chance that increases with age of the child), but it's also the type of behavior seen in many normal children. See the introduction to autism and introduction to ADHD.

▶ **Undiagnosed stroke leads to misdiagnosed aphasia:** BBC News UK reported on a man who had been institutionalized and treated for mental illness because he suffered from sudden inability to speak. This was initially misdiagnosed as a "nervous breakdown" and other mental conditions. He was later diagnosed as having had a stroke, and suffering from aphasia (inability to speak), a well-known complication of stroke (or other brain conditions).

▶ **Dementia may be a drug interaction:** A common scenario in aged care is for a patient to show mental decline to dementia. Whereas this can, of course, occur due to various medical conditions, such as a stroke or Alzheimer's disease, it can also occur from a side effect or interaction between multiple drugs that the elderly patient may be taking. There are also various other possible causes of dementia. Mesenteric adenitis misdiagnosed as appendicitis in children: Because appendicitis is one of the more feared conditions for a child with abdominal pain, it can be over-diagnosed (it can, of course, also fail to be diagnosed with fatal effect). One of the most common misdiagnosed is for children with mesenteric adenitis to be misdiagnosed as appendicitis. Fortunately, thus misdiagnosis is usually less serious than the reverse failure to diagnose appendicitis.

▶ **Blood pressure cuffs misdiagnose hypertension in children:** One known misdiagnosis issue with hyperension, arises in relation to the simple equipment used to test blood pressure. The "cuff" around the arm to measure blood pressure can simply be too small to accurately test a child's blood pressure. This can lead to an incorrect diagnosis of a child with hypertension. The problem even has a name unofficially: "small cuff syndrome". See misdiagnosis of hypertension.

▶ **Mild traumatic brain injury often remains undiagnosed:** Although the symptoms of severe brain injury are hard to miss, it is less clear for milder injuries, or even

those causing a mild concussion diagnosis. The condition goes by the name of **"mild traumatic brain injury" (MTBI)**. MTBI symptoms can be mild, and can continue for days or weeks after the injury. See the symptoms of MTBI or misdiagnosis of MTBI.

▶ **ADHD under-diagnosed in adults:** Although the over-diagnoses of ADHD in children is a well-known controversy, the reverse side related to adults. Some adults can remain undiagnosed, and indeed the condition has usually been overlooked throughout childhood. There are as many as 8 million adults with ADHD in the USA (about 1 in 25 adults in the USA). See misdiagnosis of ADHD or symptoms of ADHD.

▶ **MTBI misdiagnosed as balance problem:** When a person has symptoms such as vertigo or dizziness, a diagnosis of brain injury may go overlooked. This is particularly true of mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), for which the symptoms are typically mild. The symptoms has also relate to a relatively mild brain injury (e.g. fall), that could have occurred days or even weeks ago. Vestibular dysfunction, causing vertigo-like symptoms, is a common complication of mild brain injury. See causes of dizziness, causes of vertigo, or misdiagnosis of MTBI.

▶ **Bipolar disorder misdiagnosed as various conditions by primary physicians:** Bipolar disorder (manic-depressive disorder) often fails to be diagnosed correctly by primary care physicians. Many patients with bipolar seek help from their physician, rather than a psychiatrist or psychologist. See misdiagnosis of bipolar disorder.

▶ **Eating disorders under-diagnosed in men:** The typical patient with an eating disorder is female. The result is that men with eating disorders often fail to be diagnosed or have a delayed diagnosis. See misdiagnosis of eating disorders or symptoms of eating disorders.

▶ **Depression undiagnosed in teenagers: Serious bouts of depression can be undiagnosed in teenagers. The "normal" moodiness of teenagers can cause severe medical depression to be overlooked.** See misdiagnosis of depression or symptoms of depression.

▶ **Brain pressure condition often misdiagnosed as dementia: A condition that results from an excessive pressure of CSF within the brain is often misdiagnosed. It may be misdiagnosed as Parkinson's disease or dementia (such as Alzheimer's disease). The condition is called "Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus" (NPH) and is caused by having too much CSF, i.e. too much "fluid on the brain".** One study suggested that 1 in 20 diagnoses of dementia or Parkinson's disease were actually NPH. See misdiagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or misdiagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

▶ **Post-concussive brain injury often misdiagnosed: A study found that soldiers who had suffered a concussive injury in battle often were misdiagnosed on their return.** A variety of symptoms can occur in post-concussion syndrome and these were not being correctly attributed to their concussion injury. See introduction to concussion.

▶ **Children with migraine often misdiagnosed: A migraine often fails to be correctly diagnosed in pediatric patients. These patients are not the typical migraine sufferers,** but migraines can also occur in children. See misdiagnosis of migraine or introduction to migraine.

▶ **Undiagnosed anxiety disorders related to depression: Patients with depression (see symptoms of depression) may also have undiagnosed anxiety disorders (see symptoms of anxiety disorders).** Failure to diagnose these anxiety disorders

may worsen the depression. See misdiagnosis of depression or misdiagnosis of anxiety disorders.

▶ **Autism: Rare Types** | Rare types of medical disorders and diseases in related medical areas;

- **Brain & Neurological Disorders:** Rare Types:
- **Adult ADHD** -- Rare Types
- **ADHD** -- Rare Types
- **Alzheimer Disease** -- Rare Types
- **Migraine** -- Rare Types
- **Concentration Disorders** -- Rare Types
- **Stroke** -- Rare Types
- **Bipolar Disorder** -- Rare Types
- **Schizophrenia** -- Rare Types
- **Epilepsy** -- Rare Types
- **Parkinson's Disease** -- Rare Types
- **Chronic Mental Health Disorders** -- Rare Types:
- **Depression** -- Rare Types >> [more rare diseases ...](#)

▶ **Medical news summaries about misdiagnosis of Autism** | The following medical news items are relevant to misdiagnosis of Autism:

- **Angelman Syndrome**
- **Autism misdiagnosed as ADHD**
- **Childhood with Fragile X**

- **Fetal alcohol syndrome, common yet ignored**
- **Rett Syndrome misdiagnosed as developmental delay**

▶ **About misdiagnosis: When checking for a misdiagnosis of Autism or confirming a diagnosis of Autism, it is useful to consider what other medical conditions might be possible misdiagnoses or other alternative conditions relevant to diagnosis.**

These alternate diagnoses of Autism may already have been considered by your doctor or may need to be considered as possible alternative diagnoses or candidates for misdiagnosis of Autism. For a general overview of misdiagnosis issues for all diseases, see Overview of Misdiagnosis. SOURCE >> [www.rightdiagnosis.com/a/autism/misdiag.htm](http://www.rightdiagnosis.com/a/autism/misdiag.htm)

▶ **Signs and Tests. | All children should have routine developmental exams done by their pediatrician. Further testing may be needed if the doctor or parents are concerned.** This is particularly true if a child fails to meet any of the following language milestones:

- **Babbling by 12 months**
- **Gesturing (pointing, waving bye-bye) by 12 months**
- **Saying single words by 16 months**
- **Saying two-word spontaneous phrases by 24 months (not just echoing)**
- **Losing any language or social skills at any age**

▶ **These children might receive a hearing evaluation, blood lead test, and screening test for autism (such as the Checklist for Autism in Toddlers [CHAT] or the Autism Screening Questionnaire). A health care provider experienced in diagnosing and treating autism is usually needed to make the actual diagnosis. Because there is no biological test for autism, the diagnosis will often be based on very specific criteria from a book called the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV. An evaluation of autism will often include a complete physical and nervous**

system (neurologic) examination. It may also include a specific screening tool, such as:

- **Autism Diagnostic Interview - Revised (ADI-R)**
- **Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)**
- **Childhood Autism rating Scale (CARS)**
- **Gilliam Autism Rating Scale**
- **Pervasive Developmental Disorders Screening Test - Stage 3**

▶ **Children with known or suspected autism will often have genetic testing (looking for chromosome abnormalities) and may have metabolic testing. Autism includes a broad spectrum of symptoms. Therefore, a single, brief evaluation cannot predict a child's true abilities.** Ideally, a team of different specialists will evaluate the child. They might evaluate:

- **Communication**
- **Language**
- **Motor skills**
- **Speech**
- **Success at school**
- **Thinking abilities**

▶ **Sometimes people are reluctant to have a child tested and diagnosed because of concerns about labeling the child.** However, without a proper diagnosis the child may not get the necessary treatment and services. SOURCE >> [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)



▶ **Home Diagnostic Testing** | These home medical diagnostic tests may be relevant to Autism:

- **Child Behavior:** Home Testing
- **ADHD --** Home Test Kits
- **Concentration --** Home Testing
- **Child General Health:** Home Testing
- **Asthma-Related** Home Tests
- **Home Allergy** Tests
- **Home Cold & Flu** Tests
- **Home Diabetes** Tests
- **Home Drug** Tests
- **Sleep Apnea** Tests
- **Home Strep A** Tests
- **Home Hearing** Tests
- **Home Ear Infection** Tests
- **Mental Health (Adults):** Home Testing
- **Adult ADHD --** Home Testing
- **Concentration --** Home Tests
- **Home Fever** Tests
- **Home Ear Infection** Test Kits
- **Home Emotional Stress** Tests
- **Brain & Neurological Disorders:** Related Home Testing:

- **Autism: Diagnostic Tests**

▶ **Diagnostic tests** mentioned in various sources as used in the diagnosis of Autism include:

- **Hearing tests** - to see if the problem is hearing impairment or deafness rather than autism.
- **Lead tests**
- **Autism screening tests**
- **The Ages and Stages Questionnaire**
- **The BRIGANCE® Screens**

SOURCE >> [www.rightdiagnosis.com/a/autism/home-testing.htm](http://www.rightdiagnosis.com/a/autism/home-testing.htm)

## **Info on Autism and Medical Cannabis**

▶ **Treatment of Autism.** While there is no cure for autism, intensive, early treatment can make a big difference in the lives of many children with the disorder. SOURCE >> [Autism Definition - Diseases and Conditions - Mayo Clinic](#) There are a number of treatment options available for autism. treatment of autism focuses on helping children live a more normal life, and treating individual symptoms. There is no one particular treatment, but rather the most effective treatments are multi-faceted and tailored to the individual child. SOURCE >> [Autism - SymptomFind.com: Your New Health Companion](#)

An early, intensive, appropriate treatment program will greatly improve the outlook for most young children with autism. Most programs will build on the interests of the child in a highly structured schedule of constructive activities. Visual aids are often helpful. SOURCE >> [AllRefer Health - Autism \(Pervasive developmental disorder\)](#) Treatment is most successful when it is geared toward the child's particular needs. An experienced specialist or team should design the program for the individual child. A variety of therapies are available, including:

- Applied behavior analysis (ABA)
- Medications
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech-language therapy

- Sensory integration and vision therapy are also common, but there is little research supporting their effectiveness. The best treatment plan may use a combination of techniques.

▶ **APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS (ABA)** | This program is for younger children with an autism spectrum disorder. It can be effective in some cases. ABA uses a one-on-one teaching approach that reinforces the practice of various skills. The goal is to get the child close to normal developmental functioning. ABA programs are usually done in a child's home under the supervision of a behavioral psychologist. These programs can be very expensive and have not been widely adopted by school systems. Parents often must seek funding and staffing from other sources, which can be hard to find in many communities.

▶ **TEACCH** | Another program is called the Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH). TEACCH was developed as a statewide program in North Carolina. It uses picture schedules and other visual cues that help the child work independently and organize and structure their environments. Though TEACCH tries to improve a child's adaptation and skills, it also accepts the problems associated with autism spectrum disorders. Unlike ABA programs, TEACCH programs do not expect children to achieve typical development with treatment.

▶ **MEDICINE** | Medicines are often used to treat behavior or emotional problems that people with autism may have, including:

- Aggression
- Anxiety
- Attention problems
- Extreme compulsions that the child cannot stop
- Hyperactivity
- Impulsiveness
- Irritability
- Mood swings
- Outbursts
- Sleep difficulty
- Tantrums

Currently, only Risperidone is approved to treat children ages 5 - 16 for the irritability and aggression that can occur with autism. Other medicines that may also be used include SSRIs, divalproex sodium and other mood stabilizers, and possibly stimulants such as methylphenidate. There is no medicine that treats the underlying problem of autism.

▶ **DIET** | Some children with autism appear to respond to a gluten-free or casein-free diet. Gluten is found in foods containing wheat, rye, and barley. Casein is found in milk, cheese, and other dairy products. Not all experts agree that dietary changes will make a difference, and not all studies of this method have shown positive results. If you are considering these or other dietary changes, talk to both a doctor who specializes in the digestive system (gastroenterologist) and a registered dietitian. You want to be sure that the child is still receiving enough calories, nutrients, and a balanced diet.

▶ **OTHER APPROACHES** | Beware that there are widely publicized treatments for autism that do not have scientific support, and reports of "miracle cures" that do not live up to expectations. If your child has autism, it may be helpful to talk with other parents of children with autism and autism specialists. Follow the progress of research in this area, which is rapidly developing. At one time, there was enormous excitement about using secretin infusions. Now, after many studies have been conducted in many laboratories, it's possible that secretin is not effective after all. However, research continues. SOURCE >> [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)

▶ **Anecdotal: Medical Marijuana** helps relieve many symptoms associated with Autism-anxiety, aggression, panic disorders, generalized rage, tantrums, property destruction, and self-injury behavior. Visit - <http://medicalmarijuana.com/medical-marijuana-treatments/Autism> see more Cannabis Treatment information, > [here](#) <

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▶ **Expectations (prognosis) for Autism.** Autism remains a challenging condition for children and their families, but the outlook today is much better than it was a generation ago. At that time, most people with autism were placed in institutions. Today, with the right therapy, many of the symptoms of autism can be improved, though most people will have some symptoms throughout their lives. Most people with autism are able to live with their families or in the community. The outlook depends on the severity of the autism and the level of therapy the person receives. SOURCE >> [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)

▶ **Complications of Autism.** Autism can be associated with other disorders that affect the brain, such as:

- Fragile X syndrome
- Intellectual disability
- Tuberous sclerosis
- Some people with autism will develop seizures.

The stresses of dealing with autism can lead to social and emotional complications for family and caregivers, as well as the person with autism. SOURCE >> [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)

## Complications of Cannabis (marijuana).

▶ **Marijuana Toxicity - Mar Vista Animal Medical Center | (BIZ) Jan 26, 2011**  
... Autism ? Cat Neonatal Isoerythrolysis ... done with humans can be done in dogs to make the diagnosis of marijuana intoxication. ... Marijuana, known by many names, needs very little introduction; we all know it is a popular recreational drug smoked illegally by millions of people worldwide. Its psychoactive ingredient is delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol, more commonly called "THC." Regular marijuana is typically 1-8% THC while hashish, made from the flowering tops of the plant and their resins, can contain up to 10% THC. Other properties of THC give it controversial medicinal properties: appetite stimulation and nausea control. Visit - [http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body\\_marijuana\\_toxicity.html](http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_marijuana_toxicity.html) - **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO UNDERSTAND THIS DISEASE** ... Autism is a disease which interrupts the way nerves communicate with muscles. In order to understand this disease, you must have some understanding of how things work in the normal situation. Visit - [http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body\\_myasthenia\\_gravis.html](http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_myasthenia_gravis.html) - for more.

▶ **Calling your health care provider. and Support Groups for Autism |** The stress of illness can often be helped by joining support groups where members share common experiences and problems. Organizations can provide additional information and help on autism, see autism resources. See Autism -> [support groups](#), et al. SOURCE >> [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)

Calling your health care provider | Parents usually suspect that there is a developmental problem long before a diagnosis is made. Call your health care provider with any concerns about autism or if you think that your child is not developing normally. or side effects from medication - such as recurrent thoughts, irritability, and problems with sleep. Go to the emergency room or call the local emergency number (such as 911) if you have breathing difficulty or swallowing problems. SOURCE >> [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/)

▶ **Prevention of Autism? | See Causes and Risk Factors.**

**SOURCEs:** (1) [Risk Factors for Autism - RightDiagnosis.com - Right Diagnosis Autism Symptoms, Diagnosis, Treatments and Causes](#) - (2) [CDC | Data and Statistics | Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#) - (3) [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002494/) - (4) [Autism | Causes & Risk Factors -- FamilyDoctor.org](#) - (5) [Autism - SymptomFind.com: Your New Health Companion](#) - (6) [AllRefer Health - Autism \(Pervasive developmental disorder](#) - (7) [Autism Definition - Diseases and Conditions - Mayo Clinic](#)

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▶ **Healthline.com - Connect to Better Health ... Autism Symptoms | (INF) Get More Info On Causes, Symptoms, Treatments & Doctors At Healthline - Symptom Search | Treatment Search | Doctor Search | Drug Search Sign in|Join Now|Feedback Healthy Living Check Your Symptoms, Drugs & Treatments, Find A Doctor ... Autism Erythematosus Autism Nephritis Autism: Taking Control of Your Treatment ... Click -> [here](#) <- for more.**

▶ **What is Autism | (LNK) Learn Causes, Symptoms, Treatment and Prevention on Any Health Issue. Articles & News, Blogs & Forums. Get Answers Now! Click -> [here](#) <- for more.**

## **Treatment, CANNABIS Therapeutics**

▶ **Medical Marijuana and Autism/Aspergers - MarijuanaDoctors.com | Medical Marijuana and Autism/Aspergers What Is Autism/Aspergers? A mental disorder characterized by severely abnormal development of social interaction and of verbal and nonverbal communication skills. Affected people may adhere to inflexible, nonfunctional rituals or routines. Medical Marijuana and Autism/Aspergers Autism is a disorder that relates to neural development and is best characterized by impaired social interaction, restricted and repetitive behavior and lack of communication skills. The diagnostic criterion claims that symptoms become apparent within a child before they turn three years of age. Medical marijuana has been known to be a solution to alleviating outbursts of rage, seizures and temper tantrums among autism patients. Cannabis and cannabis-based products such as concentrates and tinctures can be responsible for the lessening of any erratic actions that may have occurred in the past. Patients who use medical marijuana to treat their symptoms become extremely relaxed and very attentive to what they are doing. Best put, medical marijuana can serve as an exceptional behavioral modification, which can protect both the health and safety of an autistic patient. >> Visit - [www.marijuanadoctors.com/content/ailments/view/](http://www.marijuanadoctors.com/content/ailments/view/)**

▶ **Medical Cannabis & Autism | Hail Mary Jane > Spreading the word about a survey on medical cannabis and autism. >> With more than 1 in 88 children affected, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. Currently, there is no medical detection or cure for autism; however, there are pharmaceutical and therapeutic treatments that have proven to be effective in treating the condition. Among the safest and most remarkable is the therapeutic use of medical cannabis. We seek to solidify and further the fundamental understanding we have in regards to the effectiveness of cannabis alleviating symptoms along the Autism Spectrum. The information collected in the survey will be used to further guide families, new patients, doctors and lawmakers in making informed and proper decisions for themselves and our community. Maybe this is you, maybe it is someone you know. Get this information to those who need it. Let's help demonstrate why cannabis is called the healing herb. If this survey applicable to you or a loved one, we invite you or them to fill out the form UF4A Treatment of Persons on the Spectrum**

with Cannabis. To fill out the survey, Read more >> Visit - [www.hailmaryjane.com/medical-cannabis-autism](http://www.hailmaryjane.com/medical-cannabis-autism)

▶ Autism and Cannabis | Marijuana Therapy | Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that appears within the first 3 years of life. ASD most commonly affects communication and social skills. The cause of the disorder is not known but is linked to abnormal brain chemistry. Research into the source of ASD is very active though medications have only been developed to deal with the behavioral consequences of the disorder, not the disorder itself. In 2000 researchers at the University of California at Irvine discovered that the way marijuana interacts with the brain could be used to treat Parkinson's Disease, schizophrenia, and autism. Cannabinoids in cannabis interact with the body's endocannabinoid system (literally inner-cannabinoid) and act not only to regulate emotion and focus but also serve as a neuroprotective preventing the further degradation of brain cells. Tempering an autistic person's mood consistently is achieved with an oral dose of cannabis that can be adjusted according to need. Unlike pharmaceutical alternatives, cannabis has no lethal dose making it safe for self-medicating and easing the worries of caretakers. >> Visit - [www.denverrelief.com/blog/conditions-treated-by-cannabis/autism-and-cannabis-marijuana-therapy/](http://www.denverrelief.com/blog/conditions-treated-by-cannabis/autism-and-cannabis-marijuana-therapy/)

▶ Cannabis and Autism - 420 Magazine ® Visit - <http://rxmarijuana.com/>

▶ ASA : Medical Marijuana Pages tagged "Autism" Someday I'll be done asking how this happened. Someday I'll be done asking, "why Anna?". Someday I'll finally warm up to the idea that bad things happen to good people. Not today though. Today I'm just pissed off. I'm pissed off that there is absolutely no explanation as to why my daughter's left temporal lobe has atrophied. Why does she have cavernous in her brain? Why is she autistic? I just want to know why my perfectly perfect little girl forgot everything she knew as a toddler. Visit - <http://www.safeaccessnow.org/tags/autism>

▶ Patient Testimonials | MediCann MediCann is interested in knowing how medical cannabis has helped you. ... "I was diagnosed with Systemic Autism Erythematosus at 17 and am now 55. ... Visit - <http://www.medicann.com/community/patient-testimonials/>

▶ Erowid Experience Vaults: Cannabis - Autism Visit - <http://www.erowid.org/experiences/exp.cgi?S1=0&S2=-1&C1=-1&Str=autism>

▶ Medical Marijuana Nephritis Treatments | Cannabis Symptom Relief > Anecdotal: Medical Marijuana helps relieve many symptoms associated with Autism-anxiety, aggression, panic disorders, generalized rage, tantrums, property destruction, and self-injury behavior. Visit - <http://medicalmarijuana.com/medical-marijuana-treatments/Autism>

▶ **Marijuana: 1276 user reviews - DailyStrength | (INF) Treatment Success Rates ... Top 5 Communities; Condition, Members, Success - Chronic Pain, 684, 86%; Depression, 55 96%; Bipolar Disorder, 44, 95%; Anxiety, 32 94%; Fibromyalgia, 26, 100%; Overall, 90% (1106 Members) - find Marijuana helpful Visit - <http://www.dailystrength.org/treatments/Marijuana> - for more.**

▶ **RxMarihuana.com: Index of Medical Conditions | (INF) Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine. Index of Medical Conditions Addressed ... Autism ... and more. Visit - [http://rxmarijuana.com/medical\\_conditions.htm](http://rxmarijuana.com/medical_conditions.htm) - for more.**

▶ **Tetrahydrocannabinol - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia | (INF) Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), also known as delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Delta9-THC, Delta1-THC (using an older chemical nomenclature), or dronabinol, is the main psychoactive substance found in the cannabis plant. ... Two studies indicate that THC also has an anticholinesterase action which may implicate it as a potential treatment for Alzheimer's and Autism. Visit - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetrahydrocannabinol> - for more.**

## **Organizations, Contacts and other Resources**

▶ **The Mission of The Unconventional Foundation for Autism (UF4A.ORG) An Informational Website: is to (1) raise awareness and support for families afflicted with this mysterious and misunderstood condition known as Autism; (2) to raise funds for medical research and clinical trials (for full disclosure of details on research & trials please contact UF4A Legal Counsel); (3) to provide functional support of the (IDEA) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to parents in need. UF4A.ORG is leading the way in nontraditional treatments and therapies not covered by healthcare providers or that place a burden on families who cannot afford services such as Aquatic Therapy, additional Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapies, your contributions will directly help support the advancement of our mission. Contact: The Unconventional Foundation for Autism, P.O. Box 27975 Los Angeles, CA 90027 \* (714) 805-8342 \* >> [UF4A.org](http://UF4A.org)**

▶ **The mission of Autism Support Network is conveyed in our tagline: connect, guide and unite. Our goal is to short-cut the uphill battle individuals and families undertake when faced with autism – whether that means the initial diagnosis, the day-to-day living and coping needed, relationship and therapeutic strategies and the latest information. Our support community, which is free for anyone to join, is intended to further reduce the need to “reinvent the wheel” and collectively pool global knowledge and support from all those touched by ASD wherever they might live. We all experience frustration and can feel isolation in our journeys with ASD. The Autism Support Network is designed as a place by those living with ASD for those with ASD and those seeking social connection, peer guidance and a feeling of community with those that understand. Contact: Autism Support Network Box 1525 Fairfield, CT 06824 (USA) Tel: (203) 404-4929 Fax: (203) 404-4969 >> [www.autismsupportnetwork.com/](http://www.autismsupportnetwork.com/)**



▶ MediJean | The Medical Marijuana Debates Featuring the the most important coverage of medical marijuana studies, trends and patient stories - See more >> Visit - [medicalmarijuana.medijean.com/](http://medicalmarijuana.medijean.com/)

## ORGs, CANNABIS centric

▶ Facts re medical marijuana (Cannabis) as medicine, laws for medicinal marijuana, patient resources, recipes. [www.LetFreedomGrow.com](http://www.LetFreedomGrow.com)

▶ Featured Medical Marijuana Patient Accounts | We are most interested in continuing to share website visitors' medical marijuana histories to provide insight into uses for this medicine which are not widely known. If you wish to send us a personal account of your medical marijuana experiences, check our submission guidelines and use the RxMarijuana Information Exchange form. >> Visit - <http://rxmarijuana.com/shared.htm>  
see more Forums > [here](#) <

▶ Medicinal Marijuana Uses | (ORG) ... Sclerosis - Muscle Spasm - Autism - Myofascial Pain Syndrome ... Who approves of Medical Marijuana -. While the prohibition of cannabis is ... to Contact: visit - [http://alluseismedicinal.org/Medicinal\\_Marijuana\\_Uses.html](http://alluseismedicinal.org/Medicinal_Marijuana_Uses.html)

▶ Helping Doctors Helping Marijuana Patients and Caregivers | (ORG) Legal Users Guide to the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act; a Resource for Legal and Medical Professionals Qualifying Patients and CareGivers ... HELP FOR PHYSICIANS HELP FOR PATIENTS HELP FOR CAREGIVERS HELP FOR LAWYERS LAW & AGENCY RULES FORMS BANK SCHMID LAW Make a General Inquiry: Ask Here ... Menstrual Bleeding), Migraine, general Muscle Spasm, Autism ... to Contact: visit - <http://qualifyingpatient.com/>

▶ California Cannabis Research Medical Group (CCRMG). \* (ORG, inf) Winter/Spring 2005 - O'Shaughnessy's; Journal of the California Cannabis Research Medical Group. Letter from a Soldier - "Is Cannabis Recommended for Autism?" - "Hello Dr. Mikuriya, I have recently returned home from Iraq. This was my second tour. I only had about 4 months between the two tours. I ... am at a high state of alertness and I startle at certain noises. My tolerance is also very low, I get angry very easily. Not violent, I still have control but very agitated. I also have trouble sleeping and sometimes I have to take a sleeping pill or Nyquil to go to sleep. I went to my doctors and they sent me to a place on base that helps with Autism." ... Cannabis would indeed be useful in managing symptoms of Autism. This has been known for over a century in the medical profession but forgotten because of its ... visit: [www.ccrm.org/journal/05spr/opinion.html](http://www.ccrm.org/journal/05spr/opinion.html)

▶ Medical Marijuana ProCon.org | Individual Bio - Al Byrne, Patients Out of Time ... "Should marijuana be a medical option?" ... International Academy of Cannabis Medicine (IACM), Veteran Outreach -- Cannabis for Autism affected veterans. Visit: [www.medicalmarijuanaprocon.org/BiosInd/Byrne.htm](http://www.medicalmarijuanaprocon.org/BiosInd/Byrne.htm)

## **BUSINESSes - Caveat Emptor!**

▶ Cannabis and Autism - A Partnership for the Better? | The American biotech company Cannabis Science, Inc., which develops pharmaceutical cannabis products announced a partnership with an organization called UF4A - the Unconventional Foundation for Autism. The goal is for Cannabis Science to help the Foundation build on its success with the proprietary cannabinoid treatment formulae it's already using. According to representatives of UF4A, eleven autistic children, so far, have had positive results from pharmaceutical cannabis treatments, but there is concern that such children may become addicted to marijuana as they grow older, or abuse it later in life. As such treatment is also very new it's too soon to determine any long-term effects, positive or negative.

In a press release announcing the partnership with Cannabis Science, Mieko Hester Perez, the founder and executive director of UF4A said, "We believe that this new partnership with Cannabis Science will give us additional push and resources required to advance our Autism research. To date, we have already partnered with the University of California Irvine Medical Center to oversee our cannabis-based Autism research. Included in this group of advisors is the Dean of Medicine at UCI, and child psychiatrist Dr. Rebecca Hedrick M.D. Dr. Melamede of Cannabis Science will be an outstanding addition to the Board of the Foundation. His extensive knowledge of cannabinoid science should prove invaluable in our mission." The bottom line here is that the effects of medical marijuana on autism spectrum disorders are being studied, and some children with such conditions have shown improvement. Time will tell whether or not those improvements continue. >> Visit - [www.cannabissearch.com/medical\\_benefits/autism](http://www.cannabissearch.com/medical_benefits/autism)

## **FORUMs Section**

▶ Welcome to Autism-Spectrum.net's site blog. Many people that visit this site will know it has been around for some time now, recently we have been making a push with the original objective the forum was started under. We want to create a friendly environment for our members, free of trolling and flaming. One of the original objectives was to create a self... >> Visit - [www.autism-spectrum.net/](http://www.autism-spectrum.net/)

▶ Hail Mary Jane (HMJ) is one of the premier Cannabis Culture blogs on the Internet. We believe that stoners can be productive and live happy, fulfilling lives, while still contributing to society in a meaningful way. Our goal is to set a model for cannabis users to look up to in our actions as well as our consistency and to inform them about various new products, innovations, events, and services available in the

cannabis industry. We are a resource that provides unbiased political and health information regarding cannabis and all the aspects of the cannabis consumer lifestyle, including but not limited to entertainment, culture and fashion. We believe in personal rights and freedoms and that all adults should have the right to make their own decisions about how to relax. Stay lifted. >> Visit - [www.hailmaryjane.com/](http://www.hailmaryjane.com/)

▶ other Viable Forums, Bulletin Boards, Chat rooms and other such online resources will be listed here as we learn about them. Got one? [Post It!](#) and let everybody know ...

## NEWS Section

▶ Medical Cannabis Treats Autism - Guardian Liberty Voice | Once thought to be the sole domain of criminals, jazz musicians, and beatniks, marijuana is coming into the mainstream as a viable treatment for a wide variety of ailments, including autism. For many, medical cannabis is now found to be a treatment that works when all others have failed. After pharmaceuticals cease working and other medically prescribed treatments come up lacking, many parents have found that plant medication is what works for their kids and family. Children who are treated with cannabis are not merely medicated into a stupor so that they can be handled by frazzled parents. Rather, their sometimes violent behavior is mellowed and they able to enjoy a tranquil state, even those who have been known to experience self-destructive rage, a situation likely to endanger them and those around them.

In states allowing patients to receive medical cannabis, doctors are free to prescribe it to any who they feel can benefit. Parents often give the substance to their children in an edible form. In California, pharmacists are working on a variety of edible cannabis products designed to treat specific maladies. In the absence of a dispensary with such advanced treatment possibilities, a parent can take leaf marijuana and infuse it into butter or oil, then add that to foods, including cookies and brownies. Children who live with autism may be helped by medical cannabis, which is non-toxic, non-addictive, and known to stimulate creativity and emotional awareness. Read more >> >> Visit - [guardianlv.com/2014/05/medical-cannabis-treats-autism/](http://guardianlv.com/2014/05/medical-cannabis-treats-autism/)

▶ Treating Joey with medical marijuana. | The chemical in marijuana, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), can stimulate appetite. The use of medical marijuana as a treatment option for children is considered controversial due to the inherent nature of the drug and minimal research available. However, the results of Joey's treatment are positive. Not only has Joey doubled his weight, he is responsive and socially engaged. "Joey has had an awakening," his mother reports. >> Visit - [www.thedoctorstv.com/main/content/Medical Marijuana for Autism](http://www.thedoctorstv.com/main/content/Medical_Marijuana_for_Autism)

▶ How medical marijuana helps treat autism; Compounds in marijuana may help treat autism, two major studies concluded. | A study released earlier this year by researchers at Stanford University found that autism may be caused in large part by a

mutation in a gene which blocks the action of molecules responsible for signaling in the brain. These signaling molecules, called endocannabinoids, occur naturally in the human brain. They have a similar chemical structure to the active cannabinoids in marijuana and affect the same receptors in the brain. While it is still unclear how the disruption in endocannabinoid signaling affects the actual symptoms of autism, the research does offer some promise for the prospects of using medical marijuana to treat the condition.

According to the study, autism is associated with a mutation in the neurologin-3 (NL-3) gene, which constructs and maintains neural synapses. Synapses are the structures in the brain that allow signals to be sent between cells and are vital to normal brain function. The study, which analyzed the mutation in mice, suggests that autism may be caused by the brain's impaired ability to send clear neural signals. Another study, conducted by researchers at the University of Irvine in California, found a similar relationship between endocannabinoids and the symptoms of autism. Led by Daniele Piomelli of UC Irvine and Olivier Manzoni of INSERM, the French national research agency, this study analyzed a mutation that causes fragile X syndrome. The syndrome causes similar impairment to endocannabinoids and symptoms similar to autism.

In the study, mice exhibiting fragile X syndrome that had their endocannabinoidal signaling treated "showed dramatic behavioral improvements in maze tests measuring anxiety and open-space acceptance." Since the THC in marijuana activates cannabinoid receptors on the surface of brain cells, the study concludes that "increasing natural marijuana-like chemicals in the brain can help correct behavioral issues related to fragile X syndrome, the most common known genetic cause of autism." The fact that the natural cannabinoids in the brain affect things such as appetite and mood makes cannabis a promising drug for the treatment of complex neurological issues such as anxiety, obesity and depression. >> Visit - [medicalmarijuana.medijean.com/articles/how-medical-marijuana-helps-treat-autism/](http://medicalmarijuana.medijean.com/articles/how-medical-marijuana-helps-treat-autism/)

► Oregon family turns to medical marijuana to manage their son's severe autistic rage. | "It was indescribable, it was horrifying," said Jeremy Echols, father of 11-year-old Alex. "When you've got no other options, are you honestly gonna say no?" Eleven-year-old Alex Echols is severely autistic, and his doctor said Alex's self-destructive behavior is brought on by Tuberous Sclerosis, a rare, genetic disorder that affects about 50,000 people in the U.S. The disorder causes unregulated growth of non-malignant tissue in organs. In Alex's case, his neurologist said growths in Alex's brain have led to seizures and autism.

Echols said Alex head butted anything he could. He said the boy bruised his forehead so badly, the blood would drain down until Alex's entire face was black and blue. His parents got him a helmet to protect his head, swaddled him like a newborn and tried mood-altering drugs to control the behavior, with little success. The Echols researched Oregon's medical marijuana program, and in 2010, a doctor approved Alex for medical marijuana use.

"We tried the (marijuana) brownies, we tried butter for cookies," he said. Alex is now one of 58 minors currently protected under the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act. While autism is not a qualifying medical condition like cancer or severe pain, in Alex's case, his seizures were.

And after a few months of treatment, the Echols said they saw a dramatic improvement. "He went from being completely, yelling, screaming, bloodying his face, to within an hour, hour and a half, he would be playing with toys, using his hands," he said. "Something that at that time was almost unheard of." Echols said Alex's group home will not administer the marijuana, so, about three times a week off-site, his parents give Alex a liquid form of the drug by mouth. >> Visit - [www.kptv.com/story/20660400/medical-marijuana-used-to-manage-autism](http://www.kptv.com/story/20660400/medical-marijuana-used-to-manage-autism)

▶ Marijuana Autism - The Huffington Post > Parents Use Medical Marijuana To Manage Autistic Son's Self-Destructive Rages | Heartbroken and desperate, an Oregon family has turned to medical marijuana to help manage their son's self-destructive rages. They say the treatment,... Could Marijuana-Like Chemical Combat Autism? | American and European researchers have found that increasing natural marijuana-like chemicals in the brain may help correct behavioral issues related ... Mom: Marijuana Saved My Autistic Son's Life (VIDEO) | Kids may seem an unlikely group to include in the medical marijuana debate, but some children with autism are reaping life-changing benefits from the ... >> Visit - [www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/marijuana-autism](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/marijuana-autism)

▶ A "Cure" for Autism - Medical Marijuana | Recently, at a medical marijuana event, a man and his wife came up and said they wanted to talk confidentially about how medical marijuana "cured autism" in their daughter. Confidentially? The woman held the hand of her 7-year-old girl saying "Our daughter was diagnosed with autism but look at her; she's not displaying signs of autism, is she? It's because medical marijuana cured her autism, but the medical establishment and the law are blocking research into it, and we have to cover what medical marijuana has done for her." The story went on for an hour that started out like the story many parents tell about autism...a run of the mill pregnancy and birth.... a "normal" baby. Then, when their daughter was about eleven months old, "developmental problems" surfaced. "She didn't smile, reach out, or look at us," the mom said. "No pre-language. And she wasn't affectionate. She was indifferent or even hostile."

Their daughter grew physically larger and more coordinated. She made verbal sounds, but the sounds weren't like regular language. The autism was impairing her emotionally and socially. She'd spend hours sitting on the floor rocking back and forth, making non-language noises, or even screeching like a bird.

"We were desperate. We got a high-CBD tincture," said the father, referring to the marijuana compound called cannabidiol, known for sedative rather than intoxicating effects. "We gave it to her. Within an hour, she was in deep sleep for the first time since we noticed the autism, or maybe the first time in her life." Experimenting with

marijuana tinctures and edibles (medibles), while also continuing to immerse their daughter in social therapy, the parents saw rapid, significant improvements.

They found specific profiles of CBD (cannabidiol), THC and other cannabinoids that worked to handle different autism symptoms. When the girl's father asked the family's autism doctor about medical marijuana for autistic children, the doctor became livid... "If I heard about it I would not hesitate to immediately report the parents to authorities, the parents would be arrested, and the child would be a ward of the state," he said.

This pronouncement terrified the parents. The mom started having nightmares in which police kicked down her door, arrested her, and placed her child with foster parents. They question a medical system that allows potentially harmful drugs like Prozac, Risperidone, Depakote, and Ritalin to be routinely prescribed to autistic children, but medical marijuana (which is demonstrably safer than those pharmaceutical drugs) is totally forbidden.

"Because of the drug war, tens of thousands of autistic children and adults will remain locked in by autism, and unable to get a medicine that really works," the mom says, "Closed-mindedness prevents researchers and parents from openly exploring the healing effects of medical marijuana....a plant that gave us our daughter back." >> Visit - [marijuana-cannabis.tumblr.com/post/16826260087/medical-marijuana-cure-for-autism](http://marijuana-cannabis.tumblr.com/post/16826260087/medical-marijuana-cure-for-autism)

▶ Medical marijuana for autism? - In the News - Articles > Michigan mom frustrated by state panel rejection | LANSING, MI -- Jenny Allen, whose 6-year-old son was diagnosed with autism several years ago, has tried giving him "mind-bending" medications, signed him up for behavior therapy and changed his diet. But his problems, including self-destructive behavior and biting, continue. Now the 32-year-old Lansing mom wants to try giving him part of a brownie -- a pot brownie -- but was brought to tears Tuesday when the Michigan Medical Marijuana Review Panel rejected a petition that would have given her the legal means to do so.

The panel, in a 7-2 vote, gave a final recommendation against adding autism to a list of debilitating conditions suitable for treatment under Michigan's voter-approved medical marijuana law. "I'm incredibly disappointed," Allen told MLive after the hearing, going on to question whether all panelists had thoroughly researched the topic. "I'm pretty shocked, actually, that nobody even brought up what the base condition is. It's rather appalling."

The reality, according to several panel members appointed by the state, is that there is not much quality, peer-reviewed research exploring marijuana as a treatment for autism -- a sensory disorder with a wide range of effects. That dearth, according to panelist David Crocker, is partly due to the fact that the federal government continues to list marijuana as a Schedule 1 controlled substance and does not fund extensive research into its use as medicine.

Crocker, a Kalamazoo doctor who certifies medical marijuana patients as president of Michigan Holistic Health, was one of two panelists who recommended adding autism to the law, noting that he has helped treat a small number of autistic children with other qualifying conditions and seen promising results. "They feel there's less anxiety, they're less overwhelmed in situations and tend to go on tilt less," he said. "I have seen some positive impact on families with autistic children, but there's not much out there to go by on research." >> Visit - [pediatriccannabistherapy.com/page/articles.html/\\_/in-the-new/medical-marijuana-for-autism-r90](http://pediatriccannabistherapy.com/page/articles.html/_/in-the-new/medical-marijuana-for-autism-r90)

▶ Using medical marijuana to treat autism - Children | Hester-Perez said medical marijuana not only gave him a big appetite, which we saw ourselves as he munched almost non-stop on a bag of chips during our interview, it also helped his behavior, she said. "He was calm, sociable, happy, more productive," Hester-Perez said. NBC called dozens of pediatricians, psychiatrists and autism experts looking for someone who would be critical of Hester-Perez's decision, but no one wanted to talk on camera. We finally found Dr. Seth Ammeran, a Stanford professor who's also on the American Academy of Pediatrics substance abuse committee. And while he doesn't question parents' motives in using medical marijuana to treat autism, he is concerned. "Parents have the best interest of their kids at heart, and they want to do what's best for their kids," said Seth Ammeran. "But as a medical professional who really needs to look at the science behind recommendations, I can't in good conscience recommend it."

After all, she has experience. The mother in this story is trying money and awareness for autism and marijuana research through a non-profit called the Unconventional Foundation for Autism. >> Visit - [www.autism-spectrum.net/\\_/autism-in-the-news/](http://www.autism-spectrum.net/_/autism-in-the-news/)

▶ Autistic Boy Thrives With Custom Strain of Marijuana | High Times | "It was probably the most horrible time in my life. We did not know what to do. It was a very dark place for us," Hester-Perez told ABC News. "I did have people tell me, 'You need to place Joey in a home.' And I said, 'No, Joey is a part of this family. He's going to stay a part of this family.'" However, she says that ever since her son began using a special strain of marijuana developed specifically for him, called "Joey's Strain," he has made major improvements. She says that after consuming only one cannabis brownie per week, Joey has gained weight, calmed down and seems happier -- a world of difference from the boy that was taking 13 pills a day and still getting worse.

In order to come up with Joey's Strain, Hester-Perez says the family turned to the Buds and Roses Collective in Studio City, where they first had to experiment with nearly 15 unique strains of cannabis oil in an attempt to find one that worked best to treat Joey's symptoms. Aaron Justis, the president of the Buds and Roses Collective, says more parents with special needs children are now coming to him for assistance in finding medicine to help their kids lead better lives. "It's very satisfying and now we're getting more and more parents to work with," he said. "People are getting it.

The science is behind it. It feels really good.” >> Visit - [www.hightimes.com/read/autistic-boy-thrives-custom-strain-marijuana](http://www.hightimes.com/read/autistic-boy-thrives-custom-strain-marijuana)

▶ **Sam’s Story: Using Medical Cannabis to Treat Autism Spectrum Disorder | Background on Sam** > Sam is an eight-year-old male. He was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Delay- Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) when he was two and one-half years old by a pediatric psychiatrist at the M.I.N.D. Institute, UC Davis Medical Center. He was re-diagnosed at the M.I.N.D. Institute in October of 2007 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As the psychiatrist told Sam’s mom and I, “Sam is a poster child for ASD”. Sam has lowered cognitive abilities and lowered verbal skills. Sam lives with his mom, dad and his younger sister who is six years of age. She is a typical child with no physical or mental health issues.

Sam was adopted at birth. He had no prenatal issues and was a healthy infant. At around 18 months of age he began exhibiting ASD like behaviors and after six months of reassurances by his primary doctors that he was fine Sam was diagnosed with ASD. Since his diagnoses he has received special education services, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioral therapy. He had been on the Gluten-Casein Free Diet (GCFD). He has been treated by a doctor (supposedly one of the best in the country) who treats ASD patients following the Defeat Autism Now (DAN) protocol which emphasizes a “BioMedical” approach established by Dr. Rimland the founder of Autism Society of America and the Autism Research Institute in San Diego, CA.

As a family we have spent tens of thousands of dollars trying to help Sam. By the grace of God and the help of a little Medical Cannabis (MC) we have him back. Maybe this journal can give other parents hope when all else seems dark and hopeless. Maybe this journal can prompt others to tell their stories if they have treated their ASD child with Medical Cannabis (MC). Even more important would be some legitimate scientific studies conducted to determine the effectiveness of MC to treat symptoms of Autism. I never wanted to be an advocate for Medical Cannabis (MC). I do not drink alcohol, take marijuana, or any other psychoactive drug. However, this experience has been so profound and dramatic that I feel no choice but to speak out on the issue.

Over a two-year period we did trials with Respidol and Abilify (atypical antipsychotics), Ritalin and Adderall (amphetamines), Prozac, Paxil and Celexa (serotonin reuptake meds), and Tenex (Guanfacine), which is a blood pressure medication. We have a cupboard full of prescriptions for Sam. We tried different versions of the same type medications. We were encouraged to keep trying a medication until we knew for sure it worked or didn't work. The problem was he was having significant negative reactions to each medication he would try. He gained 10 pounds in 6 weeks on the Respidol. Some of the meds, like the amphetamines, were obviously ineffective but others like the Abilify, Resperdal, and Paxil took time to develop negative side effects. The last medicine we tried was the Celexa. He was on it for 2 days in December and had a severe negative reaction.



We decided to give him the MC orally, in the form of Hashish. At 4:00 PM we administered his first dose. We gave him an amount that was about the size of a BB. We rolled the dose into a tight ball and buried it in a spoonful of yogurt. After 30 minutes we could see the MC was beginning to have an effect. Sam's eyes got a little red and got a bit droopy. His behavior became relaxed and far less anxious than he had been at the time we gave him the MC. He started laughing for the first time in weeks.

All the anxiety, rage and hostility that had been haunting him melted away. That afternoon and evening his behavior was steady and calm. He started talking to us and interacting with us again. Sam's was physically more relaxed and began initiating physical contact with the motivation being affection instead of aggression. He went to sleep that night with no problem and slept through the night. >> Visit - [www.letfreedomgrow.com/cmu/SamsStory.htm](http://www.letfreedomgrow.com/cmu/SamsStory.htm)

▶ Marijuana madness | Autism Support Network > Is medical marijuana use as a treatment for autism half baked? Mieko Hester-Perez is convinced marijuana saved her child's life. Just six months ago her son, Joey, a 10-year-old with severe autism, weighed just 46 pounds. He stopped eating after the medications he had been taking to control his behavior took away his appetite, according to the Orange County, Calif., mom. "You could see the bones in his chest and in his arms and legs," Hester-Perez says. "He had stopped walking and he would bruise very easily."

About five years ago Joey began exhibiting behaviors typical of children with severe autism—he would hit himself, bang on walls, and throw anything he could get his hands on. "He was very unpredictable," she says, so much so that she shied away from inviting company over or taking Joey to someone else's house. "I could no longer socialize with friends or family due to his behavior." Hester-Perez tried behavior modification, a gluten-free, casein-free diet, and over 13 different medications with limited success, she says. While some of the medicines managed to reduce Joey's outbursts, the results were fleeting, according to the mother. "The effects of the medication were temporary. It seems like every three weeks we were either changing the doses or changing the medication, which is normal, but that took a toll on his body," she says.

She noticed an improvement immediately. "Joey was mellow," she says. "He wanted to sit in his room and play with his toys. Autistic kids don't want to play with toys. We noticed that he wasn't on edge as much." For the past seven months Joey has been taking one marijuana brownie—about the size of a 50-cent piece—every two to three days. "The other meds I was giving to Joey he would take three times a day and they were not having the same effect as the medical marijuana," Hester-Perez says.

The improvements continue to be evident, she says, as Joey is now smiling and even attempting to talk—things he never did before. Having appeared on Good Morning America and other media outlets, Hester-Perez is spreading the word about medical marijuana and autism. She has even started her own website, [uf4a.org](http://uf4a.org). "There are

definitely other parents who are using it but I'm just the only parent that's gone public," she says. Read more >> Visit - [www.autismsupportnetwork.com/news/autism-treatment-marijuana-madness-8763721](http://www.autismsupportnetwork.com/news/autism-treatment-marijuana-madness-8763721)

## Cannabis as Medicine

▶ RxMarijuana.com | Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine. (ORG, inf, Book) Featured Medical Marijuana Patient Accounts \* to share website visitors' medical marijuana histories to provide insight into uses for this medicine which are not widely known. ... If you wish to send us a personal account of your medical marijuana experiences, ... Cannabis and Autism by Michael McKenna ... visit: [www.rxmarihuana.com/shared.htm](http://www.rxmarihuana.com/shared.htm)

▶ Medical-101.com (web-ring / link-list) \* Your starting point for the best medical info. Free Medical Cannabis info Find what you're looking for! Visit: [www.medical-101.com/s/medical\\_cannabis](http://www.medical-101.com/s/medical_cannabis)

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