

The results showed us a specific development disorder comorbid with a deficit of attention so we decided to start with the psychopharmacological treatment and psychotherapy.

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EV225

Early interventions practices in ASD – Maternal behavior in spontaneous interaction with their children

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Recent studies point out that the occurrence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is up to 1%. In Brazil, providing services of medical diagnosis for children with ASD takes precious time. The time spent waiting for the conclusion of the diagnostic process would be extremely important to the child's development. In this context, the parent–children interaction is an important aspect to be considered as a factor that has a positive impact in this process. The aim of this study was to explore maternal behavior during a spontaneous play situation with their children. All subjects were filmed for 30 minutes during a spontaneous play situation with their mothers that did not receive any special instructions. The subjects were 30 normal children, 3 of each age (respectively 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33 and 36 months) and 20 autistic children with ages varying from 2:10 to 10:6 (not expected any chronological association). The whole corpus was analyzed considering of each subject, of each group and the possible associations between the groups. The analysis of the maternal behavior provides data about the importance of mother–child interaction and how everyday life activities and routines can be used to increase the opportunities to improve the ASD child's communicative abilities and their creative use as an important part of the whole development. These findings provide further evidence that families should be included in any plan for intervention designed towards ASD children.

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EV232

Affective symptoms and emerging psychotic disorder in adolescents

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Depressive symptoms are frequently reported during the period preceding the onset of schizophrenia in adolescents when such symptoms can be mistaken for those of mood disorder. However, it is unclear which emotional symptoms should be considered predictive of schizophrenia onset.

The types of emotional disturbances that may precede schizophrenic disorder were sought through a review of historical descriptive studies and seminal works using a phenomenological approach. Five main types of emotional disturbances have been found as prodromal symptoms of a schizophrenic disorder: (1) increased sensitivity to stress, (2) poor or incomplete expression of emotions, (3) reduced emotion sharing, (4) emotional detachment, and (5) disconnection between the perception and expression of emotions. Studies based on phenomenological views of schizophrenic disorders stressed the chronological sequence of these symptoms in the same person. For example, the term “delusional mood” (Wahnstimmung) coined to describe changes

in the perceived atmosphere encompass mood disturbances from subtle emotional overreactivity to more severe symptoms that could evoke athymhormia.

Analysis of recent studies among subjects at high-risk for psychotic transition showed that the presence of mood symptoms at a very early stage of the disorder is common. While these symptoms predict a lower level of general functioning, they were not associated with a higher risk of developing a schizophrenic disorder at follow-up.

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EV233

The RDoC roadmap to explore neurocognitive difficulties of youths with severely dysregulated mood: Current findings and prospects

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The Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) has been developed as a multilevel approach to study neurocognitive impairments in psychiatry. Considering the high prevalence and the functional impairment associated with disruptive mood dysregulation disorders (DMDD) in youths, a better understanding of the neurobiological mechanisms underlying such emotional difficulties could help guide therapeutics.

So far, three key difficulties in the socio-emotional neurocognitive process have been documented in youths with DMDD:

- a deficit in the recognition of facial emotions has been found (systems for social process/social communication construct). Functional imagery has shown that such impairment is associated with a hypoactivity of limbic neural structures, especially the amygdala. Such findings are in line with those found in adults with depressive episodes;

- poor flexibility during cognitive tasks (cognitive systems/cognitive effortful control construct). In particular, these youths score poorly in neuropsychological tasks associated with response reversal paradigm measuring the capacity to change cognitive strategy when the rules of the game change implicitly. These results partly explain the difficulties facing DMDD youths in a frustrating context;

- higher level of emotional arousal. Such youths would present specific impairments in the initial stages of attention; reflected by lower N1 event-related potential amplitude during Posner affective tasks.

Ongoing studies are being conducted to explore other RDoC domains such as abnormalities in circadian rhythms; in metacognition and perspective-taking tasks; and in the non-facial communication process (such as prosody or postural expressions). A computational model of interactive behaviors is a promising field to study difficulties of DMDD youths in regulating moods during social interaction.

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EV234

Childhood adversities and emergency room visits

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