



Pervasive Developmental Disorder: A Comparison of Medications at Different Stages

Braulio Cortese*

Department of Psychiatry, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt

DESCRIPTION

Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) was used to describe a group of conditions that affect the development of social and communication skills in children. The term is no longer used in the current diagnostic manual (DSM-5), which replaced it with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 2013. However, some people may still use the term PDD or PDD-NOS (not otherwise specified) to refer to children who have some but not all of the characteristics of autism. The signs of PDD or ASD usually become noticeable around the age of 3 years, but they can appear from early infancy. The signs may vary widely among children, depending on their age, level of functioning, and individual differences.

Some common signs of PDD or ASD

- Difficulty understanding and using language.
- Difficulty relating to people, objects, and events.
- Different modes of playing with toys and other objects.
- Difficulty with changes in routine or surroundings.
- Repetitive body movements or behavior patterns.
- Limited social skills.
- Extreme responses to sensory information, such as loud noises and lights.

The diagnosis of PDD or ASD is based on the observation and assessment of the child's behavior and development by a team of professionals, such as pediatricians, psychologists, speech therapists, and occupational therapists. The diagnosis may also involve standardized tests, interviews with parents and caregivers, and medical examinations to rule out other possible causes of the symptoms. The treatment of PDD or ASD is tailored to the needs and strengths of each child and family. There is no single best treatment for all children with PDD or ASD, but some common elements of effective treatment are early intervention is the starting treatment as soon as possible after diagnosis can improve the outcome and quality of life for children with PDD or ASD. Individualized approach design treatment plans that address the specific goals, challenges, and preferences of each

child and family. A comprehensive service provides a range of services that cover different aspects of development, such as language, social skills, behavior, cognition, and motor skills. As family involving parents and caregivers in the treatment process provides them with education, support, and resources. An evidence-based practice uses interventions that have been proven to be effective by scientific research.

Some examples of evidence-based interventions for children with PDD or ASD are Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a method of teaching new skills and reducing challenging behaviors by breaking them down into small steps and reinforcing positive outcomes. Developmental approach methods focus on enhancing the child's natural motivation and interest in learning through play and social interactions. Structured teaching method use visual cues, routines, and organization to help the child understand and cope with the environment. Social skills training methods teaches the child how to interact appropriately with others in various situations. Speech therapy method helps the child to improve their communication skills, such as speaking, listening, understanding, and expressing emotions. Occupational therapy method helps the child to develop their sensory-motor skills, such as coordination, balance, fine motor skills, and self-care. Medication drugs may help to reduce some symptoms of PDD or ASD, such as anxiety, hyperactivity, aggression, or seizures. Medication should always be prescribed and monitored by a doctor. The causes of PDD or ASD are not fully understood, but research suggests that they involve a complex interaction of genetic and environmental factors.

Possible risk factors for developing PDD or ASD

- Having a sibling or parent with PDD or ASD
- Having certain genetic conditions or mutations
- Being exposed to certain infections or toxins during pregnancy or early childhood
- Being born prematurely or with low birth weight

Finding support for children with PDD or ASD and their families is important for coping with the challenges and stressors

Correspondence to: Braulio Cortese, Department of Psychiatry, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt, E-mail: cortese@gi.eg

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associated with the condition. Support groups provide a safe space for sharing experiences, feelings, and information with other families who have similar situations. A respite care service offers a temporary relief for parents and caregivers by taking care of the child for a short period of time. Advocacy organizations group promote the rights and interests of people with PDD or

ASD and provide them with resources and assistance. Online community platforms connect people with PDD. The diagnosis may also involve standardized tests, interviews with parents and caregivers, and medical examinations to rule out other possible causes of the symptoms. The treatment of PDD or ASD is tailored to the needs and strengths of each child and family.