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THE COMPLEXITIES OF AUTISM

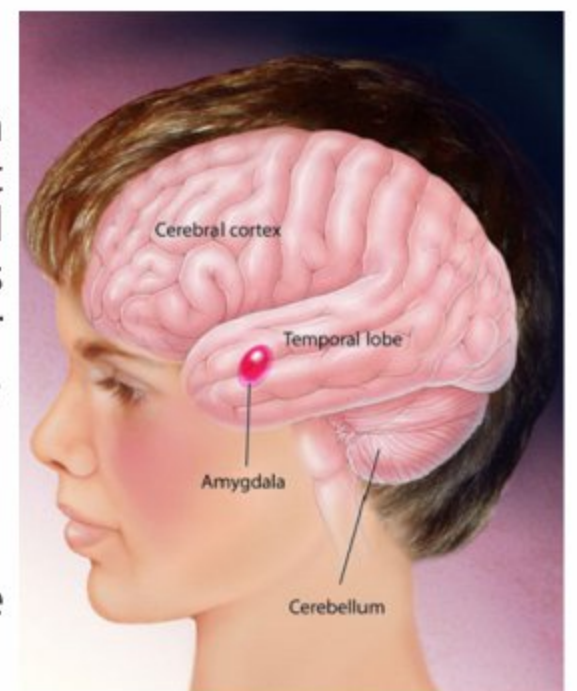
Autism describes a spectrum of neurodevelopmental disorders negatively affecting brain development and causing life-long deficits in communication, social and behavioural skills.

Symptoms:

Symptoms include impaired communication, lack of awareness, abnormal seeking of comfort when distressed, impaired imitation skills, abnormal toy play, inability to form friendships, dependence on routine, abnormal responses to sensory stimulation, behavioural problems, variability of intellectual functioning, uneven development profile, difficulties in sleeping, immune irregularities and gastrointestinal problems.

Incidence:

Autism is not a rare or uncommon disorder. It is the third most common developmental disorder, more common than Down's syndrome. Recent international studies show that about 1 in 68 people have autism and the overall incidence of autism is believed to be consistent around the globe (CDC, 2014). This means that there are over 18 million people with autism in India. Autism is four times more commonly diagnosed in boys than girls. It knows no racial, ethnic, geographical or social boundaries. ⁽¹⁾



Causes:

The precise cause of Autism still remains somewhat of a mystery but evidence points to both genetic and environmental components.

Treatment:

Behavioural interventions and social skill training appear to provide the most benefit but they have not been able to correct all the symptoms experienced by patients with Autism. As yet, there are no effective drugs but physicians prescribe stimulants, anticonvulsants, antipsychotics, or antidepressants in an attempt to address the symptoms. As the number of potential alternative therapies grows (herbal remedies, vitamins, minerals, diet, dietary supplements, acupuncture, sensory training), the medical system is seeking to evaluate and understand their usefulness.

Stem cell therapy for Autism:

Umbilical cord stem cells are being researched for the treatment of Autism. Clinical trials show that a child's own stem cells may stimulate repair of the nervous system, potentially helping to improve language and some behaviours.

Success Story:

Kenneth Kelley ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾, from Maine, was diagnosed with Autism at an early age. Till the age of 7 he couldn't even talk and also exhibited other symptoms like anger. His road to recovery began in 2009. The family travelled to Costa Rica where Kenneth received stem cells from umbilical cord blood. It wasn't long after the procedure the family noticed a difference their son. His parents say his sentence structure has improved and he's more aware of his surroundings. He even remembers birthdays, days of the week and he can tell time. With time he has also turned calmer. Now his parents say he reads all the time. "It's amazing," says Marty Kelley, Kenneth's mother, "He picked up the books and started reading."



Sources:

(1) <http://www.autism-india.org/about-autism>

(2) <http://www.cellmedicine.com/stem-cell-therapy/patient-stories/autism-patient-stories/>

(3) <http://kensjourneytorecovery.blogspot.in/search?updated-min=2009-01-01T00:00:00-05:00&updated-max=2010-01-01T00:00:00-05:00&max-results=36>



EVENTS

Mummy & Tummy Sessions



Pune



Mumbai



Vasai



4th Feb, World Cancer Day

is celebrated to raise awareness of Cancer and to persuade its prevention, detection and treatment!

Whilst cancer can be a tough topic to deal with, you could take solace in knowing that your baby and family can be protected from cancers like Leukaemia and Hodgkin's Disease by preserving stem cells!

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