



GLOBAL MEDICAL  
EDUCATION  
PRESENTS

# WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?



## WHAT IS AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)?

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder often experience:

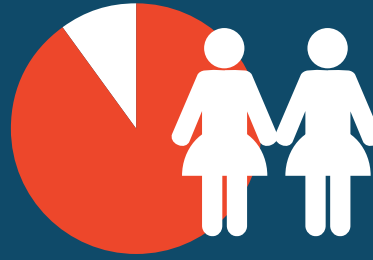
- ✓ Difficulties in social & emotional connections.
- ✓ Failure to hold a back and forth conversation, or initiate or respond to social interactions.
- ✓ Difficulties in using or understanding gestures or sometimes a total lack of facial expression such as poor eye contact.
- ✓ Highly fixated interests including a preoccupation with unusual objects.
- ✓ Difficulties in reacting to sensory input including indifference to pain and temperature and excessive touching or smelling of objects.
- ✓ Difficulties in imaginative play and making friends, with a lack of interest in peers.
- ✓ Repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities like repetitive motor movements (lining up toys, repeating vocalizations of others).
- ✓ Insistence on sameness including extreme distress with small changes in routine and difficulties with transitions.

School aged boys are  
4X more likely to have  
ASD compared to school  
aged girls.





In families with one child with ASD there is a 5% risk of having another child with ASD.



If one twin has ASD there is a 90% chance that the other twin will also have ASD.

58%

of ASD is reported as **mild** by parents.



35%

of ASD is reported as **moderate** by parents.



7%

of ASD is reported as **severe** by parents.

## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIGNS OF AUTISTIC DISORDER?

- ✓ Does not babble or coo by 12 months of age.
- ✓ Does not gesture (point, wave, grasp, etc.) by 12 months of age.
- ✓ Does not say single words by 16 months of age.
- ✓ Does not say two-word phrases on his or her own (rather than just repeating what someone says to him or her) by 24 months of age.
- ✓ There is a loss of language or social skill at any age.
- ✓ The child does not respond to his/her name.
- ✓ Language skills or speech are delayed.
- ✓ The child doesn't follow directions.
- ✓ The child seems to hear sometimes, but not others.





## SPECIFIC DISORDERS IN THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER CATEGORY INCLUDE:

### AUTISTIC 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.

### ASPERGER'S DISORDER



Asperger's disorder is often considered a high functioning form of autism. It can lead to difficulty interacting socially, repeat behaviors, and clumsiness.

### RETT'S DISORDER



Rett's disorder is a disorder of the nervous system that leads to developmental reversals, especially in the areas of expressive language and hand use.

### PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER-NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED (PDD-NOS)



A diagnosis that is used for "severe and pervasive impairment in the development of reciprocal social interaction or verbal and nonverbal communication skills, or when stereotyped behavior, interests, and activities are present, but the criteria are not met for a specific PDD" or for several other disorders.

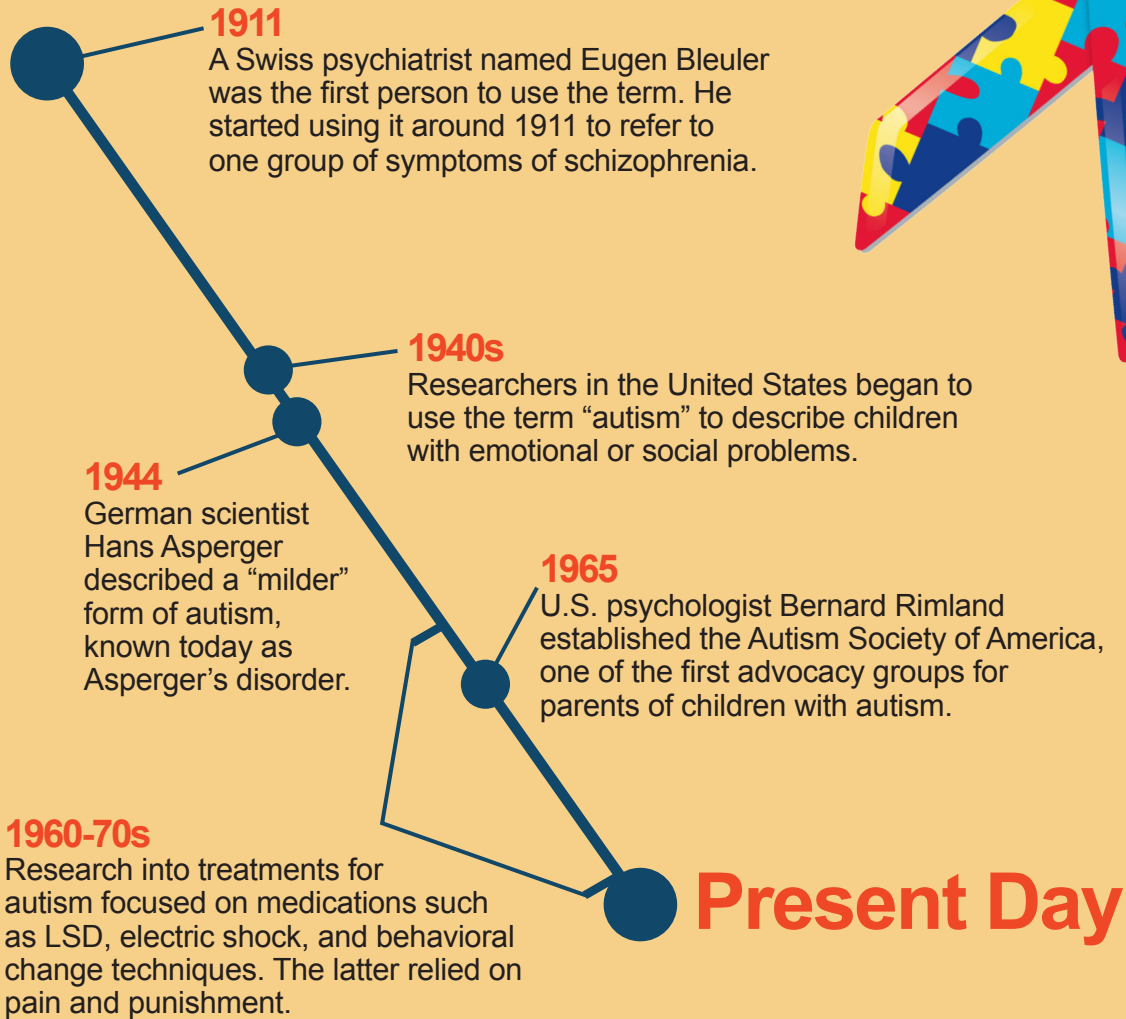
### CHILDHOOD DISINTEGRATIVE DISORDER



Childhood disintegrative disorder is a condition in which children develop normally through age 3 or 4. Then, over a few months, children lose language, motor, social, and other skills that they already learned.



# THE HISTORY OF AUTISM



## WHAT CAUSES AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER?



Researchers have identified a number of genes associated with the disorder. Abnormalities in brain structure and function as well as neurotransmitters have also been identified.

Most common comorbid disorders in patients with ASD include mood disorders, anxiety disorders including OCD, sleep disorders, ADHD and schizophrenia.

*There is no evidence that vaccines or parenting behavior are associated with ASD.*



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For more information on autism spectrum disorder from  
the world's leading experts visit: [www.gmeded.com](http://www.gmeded.com)

*Always talk to your doctor about your illness*

**SOURCES:**

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