

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

They are developmental disorders that can cause difficulties in social interaction, communication, and behavior. They usually manifest before the child's three (3) years of life.

Currently, the diagnosis of ASD includes Autistic Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger's Syndrome.

Signs and Symptoms

1. Difficulty relating to others.
2. They avoid eye contact.
3. Difficulty understanding other people's feelings and talking about your own feelings.
4. They prefer to be hugged when they want to.
5. They seem to be inattentive when you speak to them but respond to other sounds.
6. They repeat actions over and over again.
7. They don't look at objects when other people point to them.
8. Difficulty expressing your needs in words or habitual movements.
9. Have unusual reactions to the smell, taste, look, feel, or sound of things.
10. Repeats words or phrases instead of using normal language.
11. Gets upset at new situations or changes in their routine and environment

Assessment and Diagnosis

To make a diagnosis, doctors look at the child's behavior and development.

The diagnosis of an ASD consists of two steps:

1. **Developmental Assessment:** short test performed by the doctor asking the parents some questions or playing with the child. To observe how the child learns, speaks, behaves and moves.
2. **Integral Diagnostic Evaluation:** the doctor will observe the behavior and development of the child and will interview the parents. It may also include a hearing and vision evaluation, genetic, neurological, and other medical tests.

Treatment

Currently, there is no cure for ASDs. However, research shows that early intervention treatment services can improve the development of these children.

These services may include therapy to help the child talk, walk, and interact with others.



Social and Emotional Aspect

For tips, tools, and resources on how you and your family can cope with the emotional and physical concerns that arise during and after medical treatment, please visit your primary physician or contact the following phone lines:



Medical Advice Line

1-844-347-7801

TTY/TDD 1-844-347-7804

APS Healthcare

787-644-9133

Contact your Primary Care Physician

If you are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), you will be registered under the Special Coverage of the Vital Plan. Your primary doctor and / or your specialist can provide you with information about the benefits of the Special Coverage, and how you will be registered under this coverage.

People with Special Coverage can get prescription drugs, tests, and other services, without needing a referral or signing from their primary physician. The Special Coverage of the Vital Plan begins from the date of diagnosis and will be effective if the beneficiary is eligible for the Vital Plan.

Reference:

Basic information about Autism Spectrum Disorder (2020)

Recovered from:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/spanish/autism/facts.html>

Assessment and Diagnosis (2020)

Recovered from:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/spanish/autism/screening.html>

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