

Autism and Asperger's Disorder

Pervasive developmental Disorders (PDD) include autism, Asperger's disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder (CDD), and Rett syndrome. For disorders that don't fit clear diagnostic criteria (as outlined in DSM-IV-TR), the classification of PDD-NOS, not otherwise specified, is given. Rett syndrome and childhood disintegrative disorder (CDD) have a period of normal development after birth, followed by deterioration in mental, social, communication, motor, and other skills. Prognosis is poor. Essential features of autism are impaired social interaction and communication (both verbal and non-verbal) as well as marked restriction in activities and interests. Most autistic persons have significant intellectual disability. Essential features of Asperger disorder include impaired social interaction and restricted/repetitive behavior, interests, and activities. Unlike autism, there is minimal delay in language/communication. Intellectual ability is often within normal limits. PDD-NOS, autism, and Asperger disorder often have co-existent psychiatric (such as mood disorders, learning disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, attention deficient hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiant disorder) and physical or neurological impairments (such as seizures, cerebral palsy). There is a wide range of abilities and disabilities. A small percentage of persons with PDD-NOS and autism are "high-functioning" and can live independently and hold regular employment. It is difficult to predict prognosis before age 3, but overall, it is strongly associated with intellectual ability and mobility. Early and intensive intervention is crucial to outcome.

1. What is the diagnosis? _____

2. Have any psychiatric disorders been diagnosed? If so, please state

3. Has any intellectual disability been diagnosed? If so, please state

4. Are physical impairments present?

Cerebral palsy? If yes, please describe level of function

Seizure history? If yes, please state type and frequency

5. Are activities of daily living (ADLS) or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) appropriate for age?

IADLs appropriate for age (ambulating, toileting, bathing, feeding, dressing, self care) Yes ___ No (Please give details) _____

IADLs appropriate for age (cooking, housecleaning, telephone use, driving)

Yes ___ No (Please give details) _____

6. Is the client working or in school? (Please give details)

7. Is your client on any medications?

Yes (Please give details) _____

No ___

8. Has your client smoked cigarettes or any other tobacco products in the last 5 years?

Yes ___

No ___

9. Does your client have any other major health problems (ex: cancer, etc.)?

Yes (Please give details)
