

Clinical presentation and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in children

Thapanee Ketklieng MD*, Sureelak Sutthritpongsa MD*

*Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj hospital, Mahidol University

Background: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is impairments of social interaction, communication and repetitive behavior. Even delayed speech is a common presentation of ASD, there are other symptoms that doctors should aware for the diagnosis of ASD.

Objective: To study clinical presentations of ASD in children and adolescents at Siriraj hospital.

Method: A retrospective study of ASD patients age ≤ 15 years old, at Siriraj hospital. Presenting symptoms, age of diagnosis and the correlation between presenting symptoms and age of first visit were evaluated.

Results: Four hundred and twelve participants. Male : Female was 11.8:1. The average age at the first visit is 3.25 years old. The duration for autism diagnosis was 5 months. The first three clinical presentations were delayed speech (33.5%), hyperactivity (33%) and impaired social interaction (19.7%). The patients aged younger than 3 years old presented with delayed speech and communication impairment whereas children older than 3 years presented with communication impairment and language disorder.

Conclusion: Doctors should evaluate ASDs in children who presented with language disorder, hyperactivity and autistic behavior.