

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

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Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Latest News

According to the CDC (USA), the prevalence of autism has risen from 1 in 36 children (2020) to 1 in 31 (2022).

About Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is a **neurodevelopmental condition** caused by **differences in brain development**, affecting **communication, social interaction, behaviour, and learning patterns**.
- Symptoms of ASD typically appear **before the age of 3 years**, though diagnosis is often **delayed**, particularly in low-awareness settings.
- People with ASD may display **repetitive behaviours, narrow interests**, and may have **unusual learning styles** or **motor skills**.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Causes

- **ASD is not caused by a single factor**. It results from a **complex interaction of genetic and environmental influences**.

- **Genetics plays a strong role**, with studies showing heritability estimates of up to **91%** (Tick et al., JAMA, 2016).
- **Environmental contributors** such as **advanced parental age**, **prenatal exposure to air pollutants**, and **maternal health** are being studied, but no **single environmental toxin** has been conclusively proven to cause autism.
- **Vaccines do not cause autism**. This claim stems from a **discredited study**, and continued misinformation can lead to **dangerous vaccine hesitancy**.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) FAQs

Q1: What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Ans: ASD is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by challenges in social interaction, communication, and repetitive behaviours, manifesting in early childhood.

Q2: Is ASD a single condition?

Ans: No, ASD is a spectrum that includes a range of conditions such as Asperger syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, and pervasive developmental disorder.

Q3: How is ASD diagnosed?

Ans: Diagnosis is based on behavioural assessments, developmental history, and screening tools, usually by pediatric neurologists or psychologists.

Source: TH

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