

10. Etiological Factors In Children With Autism

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Objectives: We decided to study children with Autism, who attended our clinic from Jan. 2002 till July 31st 2003. The main aim was to determine inborn errors of metabolism or Fragile X syndrome as causative factors for Autism.

Methods : We selected 34 children with Autism who attended our genetic clinic. Detailed metabolic investigations, Antigliadin Antibodies Ig G, Ig A and Tissue trans – glutaminase Ig A were performed in all. Fragile X Chromosome was analyzed in 3 males by PCR technique and one female for Rett's syndrome.

Results : We found CMV infection (2/34), Gluten sensitivity (6/34), Partial Biotinidase Deficiency (5/34), Biotinidase Deficiency (1/34), Phenylketonuria (1/34), Histidinemia (1/34), Homocysteinemia (1/34), Hypervalinemia(1/34), Argininemia (3/34), Respiratory Chain Defect (2/34), Succinyl Semialdehyde dehydrogenase def. (1/34), Fragile X Syndrome (1/34), and Rett's Syndrome (1/34), Incontinentia Pigmentii (1/34), 4 patients without etiological factor were labeled as probably Idiopathic.

Conclusion: We could identify some etiological factor in 30 out of 34 children. We strongly recommend that all children with Autism should receive these basic investigations to rule out Gluten Sensitivity and Inborn Errors of Metabolism.