

Best Evidence Summaries of Topics in Mental Healthcare

BEST in MH *clinical question-answering service*

Question

“In individuals with autistic spectrum disorders, what is the most reliable screening tool for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder?”

Clarification of question using *PICTRO* structure

Patients: Individuals with autistic spectrum disorders

Intervention: Screening tool for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

Comparator: Any other screening tool for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

Target condition: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

Reference standard: Any

Outcome: Sensitivity & specificity

Plain language summary

No relevant, high quality research was identified to answer this question.

Clinical and research implications

No relevant, high quality research was identified

What does the evidence say?***Number of included studies/reviews (number of participants)***

N/A

Main findings

N/A

Authors conclusions

N/A

Reliability of conclusions/Strength of evidence

N/A

What do guidelines say?

The NICE guidelines for under 19 year olds with autism (CG128, CG170) make the following recommendations are made for when diagnosing autism:

“Consider whether the child or young person may have any of the following as a coexisting condition, and if suspected carry out appropriate assessments and referrals:

- Mental and behaviour problems and disorders:
 - ADHD...” (pp.23 CG128)

“Assess factors that may increase the risk of behaviour that challenges in routine assessment and care planning in children and young people with autism, including:

- impairments in communication that may result in difficulty understanding situations or
- in expressing needs and wishes
- coexisting physical disorders, such as pain or gastrointestinal disorders
- coexisting mental health problems such as anxiety or depression and other
- neurodevelopmental conditions such as ADHD...” (CG170 pp.20)

Despite making general recommendations for the diagnosis of ADHD, NICE guidelines do not comment on the diagnosis of ADHD in individuals with autism, or other comorbidities, specifically.

Date question received: 30/06/2016

Date searches conducted: 17/07/2016

Date answer completed: 26/07/2016

References

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2013) Autism in under 19s: support and management CG170. NICE: LONDON

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg170/resources/autism-in-under-19s-support-and-management-35109745515205>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2011) Autism in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis. CG128. NICE: LONDON

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/resources/autism-in-under-19s-recognition-referral-and-diagnosis-35109456621253>

Search details

Source	Search Strategy	Number of hits	Relevant evidence identified
<i>Guidelines</i>			
NICE	Autism Attention	4	2
<i>Systematic Reviews</i>			
MEDLINE	(measure* OR assess* OR screen*).ti,ab autis*.ti,ab exp AUTISTIC DISORDER/ 48 OR 49 "randomized controlled trial".ti,ab "controlled clinical trial".ti,ab randomi\$ed.ti,ab placebo.ti,ab "drug therapy".ti,ab randomly.ti,ab trial.ti,ab groups.ti,ab exp RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL/ exp CLINICAL TRIAL/ OR exp CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL/ 51 OR 52 OR 53 OR 54 OR 55 OR 56 OR 57 OR 58 OR 59 OR 60 50 AND 61 (ADHD OR (attention adj3 disorder*)).ti,ab exp ATTENTION DEFICIT AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR DISORDERS/ OR exp ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER WITH HYPERACTIVITY/ 63 OR 64 62 AND 65	441	0
EMBASE	exp MEASUREMENT/	219	0

	<p>(measure* OR assess* OR screen*).ti,ab exp AUTISM ASSESSMENT/ OR exp AUTISM DIAGNOSTIC INTERVIEW REVISED/ OR exp AUTISM DIAGNOSTIC OBSERVATION SCHEDULE/ 23 OR 24 OR 25 autis*.ti,ab exp AUTISM/ 27 OR 28 26 AND 29 random*.ti,ab factorial*.ti,ab ((crossover* OR cross-over*).ti,ab placebo*.ti,ab ((doubl* ADJ blind*).ti,ab ((singl* ADJ blind*).ti,ab assign*.ti,ab allocat*.ti,ab volunteer*.ti,ab exp "RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL (TOPIC)"/ OR exp CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL/ 34 OR 35 OR 36 OR 37 OR 38 OR 39 OR 40 OR 41 OR 42 OR 43 33 AND 44 (ADHD OR (attention adj3 disorder*).ti,ab exp ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER/ 46 OR 47</p>		
PsycINFO/CINAHL	<p>exp MEASUREMENT/ (measure* OR assess* OR screen*).ti,ab 2 OR 3 exp AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS/ autis*.ti,ab 6 OR 8 4 AND 9 random*.ti,ab</p>	266	0

	groups.ti,ab ((double adj3 blind)).ti,ab ((single adj3 blind)).ti,ab controlled.ti,ab ((clinical adj3 study)).ti,ab trial.ti,ab "treatment outcome clinical trial".ti,ab exp EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN/ 8 OR 9 OR 10 OR 11 OR 12 OR 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 7 AND 17 (ADHD OR (attention adj3 disorder*)).ti,ab exp ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER WITH HYPERACTIVITY/ 19 OR 20 18 AND 21		
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