Myths Associated with AUTISM

• Presence of eye contact rules out AUTISM
• Lack social interest
• Lack awareness of social challenges
• Diagnosed early in life
• Diagnosis of ASD requires:
  - Diagnostic tools: ADIR/ADOS
  - Neuropsychological assessment
  - Genetic work-up
• Psychiatric disorders are uncommon with AUTISM

Take away: Receiving a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder is not limited to these qualifications
Under-recognition of Co-occurring AUTISM & Psychopathology

Proper identification of both, AUTISM and PSYCHIATRIC CONDITIONS essential for providing disorder-specific treatment

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY under-recognized in individuals with AUTISM

AUTISM

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

AUTISM under-recognized in individuals with PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

The Alan & Lorraine Bressler Program for Autism Spectrum Disorder
Implications of Unrecognized Reciprocal Comorbidity of ASD & Psychopathology

Unidentified/untreated

**Psychopathology**
- Further worsens already compromised psycho-social functioning
- Interferes with ASD specific behavioral interventions
- Fails to receive disorder specific treatment
- Increases risk for developing other psychiatric conditions (disruptive behaviors, mood dysregulation, and substance abuse)

**ASD**
- Increases risk of receiving inappropriately aggressive treatment for psychopathology
- Failure to recognize atypical precipitants negatively affecting psychopathology
- Failure to receive treatment specific for ASD
- Miss opportunity to implement early interventions for ASD
CBCL – ASD Profile

Level of Dysfunction on Child Behavior Checklist in Psychiatically Referred Youth

Statistical Significance: *p≤0.05, **p≤0.01, ***p≤0.001

ASD Youth
Age range: 6-18 years
IQ
Mean IQ: 99 ±14
IQ>70: 100%

ASD Subtypes
Autistic Disorder = 52%
Asperger’s Disorder = 25%
PDD-NOS = 23%

CBCL-ASD Subscale Areas (Withdraw, Social, & Thought Problems)
scores greater than 65 are indicative of ASD

Biederman et al., 2010
## CBCL – ASD Profile

### CBCL-ASD Profile Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Withdrawn Behavior</th>
<th>Social Problems</th>
<th>Thought Problems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Refuses to talk</td>
<td>- Doesn’t get along with other kids</td>
<td>- Strange ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Would rather be alone than with others</td>
<td>- Prefers being with younger kids</td>
<td>- Strange behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Withdrawn, doesn’t get involved with others</td>
<td>- Not liked by other kids</td>
<td>- Hears sounds or voices that aren’t there</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Too shy or timid</td>
<td>- Gets teased a lot</td>
<td>- Sees things that aren’t there</td>
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<td>- Secretive, keeps things to self</td>
<td>- Feels others are out to get him/her</td>
<td>- Nervous movements or twitching</td>
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<td>- There is little that he/she enjoys</td>
<td>- Complains of loneliness</td>
<td>- Picks nose, skin, or other parts of body</td>
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<td>- Underactive, slow moving, or lacks energy</td>
<td>- Poorly coordinated or clumsy</td>
<td>- Plays with own sex parts too much</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Unhappy, sad, or depressed</td>
<td>- Gets hurt a lot, accident-prone</td>
<td>- Plays with own sex parts in public</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Easily jealous</td>
<td>- Can’t get his/her mind off certain thoughts; obsessions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Clings to adults or too dependent</td>
<td>- Repeats certain acts over and over; compulsions</td>
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<td>- Speech problem</td>
<td>- Stores up too many things he/she doesn’t need</td>
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<td>- Deliberately harms self or attempts suicide</td>
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<td>- Sleeps less than most kids</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Talks or walks in sleep</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Trouble sleeping</td>
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</table>