

# Improving nursing care for children diagnosed with Autism

Autism is a serious complex developmental disorder in which it is difficult to form social contacts with the outside world and other person.

## Purpose of the study

**Assessment** of the role of a nurse in the rehabilitation of patients with autism (ASD) to identify the strengths and weaknesses of nursing care in National center for children's rehabilitation of CF "UMC".

## Research question

What is the role of a nurse in the rehabilitation of children diagnosed with Autism, in providing full nursing care?

**Venue:** National Center for Children's Rehabilitation, CF "UMC"

**Research methods :** Quantitative research, survey

**Participants:** nurses (n = 30), parents of patients with ASD (n =24)

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## Results

The study showed the lack of clarity of the role of nurses in the care of patients with ASD, the range of positive responses of nurses in assessing their role was from 30% to 54%. 67% of nurses were trained in ASD. Self-assessment of knowledge about the symptoms and treatment of ASD showed 65% and 54%. Parents' assessment of the role of nurses in the nursing care of patients with ASD showed a higher rating, from 79% to 96%. The results of the study showed that in order to provide high-quality nursing care for patients with ASD, NCCR nurses need to understand their role and need additional training on this disease.



## Conclusions

### Strengths of nursing care for patients with ASD

- understanding of patients' parents about the importance of the role of nurses in caring for patients with ASD
- trusting attitude of parents to the work of nurses
- high willingness of nurses to learn and accept changes in nursing care focused on patients with ASD

### Weaknesses of nursing care for patients with ASD

- average level of vocational education of nurses
- average level of knowledge of nurses about ASD
- lack of professional experience working with patients with ASD
- insufficient on-the-job training

## Recommendations

- Organization of training of nurses in the NCCR on an ongoing basis on ASD disease and the provision of nursing care for patients with ASD.
- Development of training materials for nurses and parents.
- Increasing number of nurses with higher education.
- Make a proposal for cooperation with medical schools to improve educational programs both in colleges and undergraduate education in nursing. National Center for Children's rehabilitation may become a base for practical training in the future.