

Autism

Also called: autism spectrum disorder

A serious developmental disorder that impairs the ability to communicate and interact.

Common

More than 1 million cases per year (India)



Can't be cured, but treatment may help



Chronic: can last for years or be lifelong



Requires a medical diagnosis



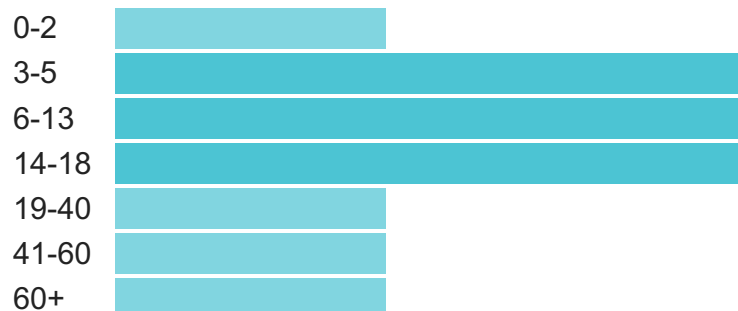
Lab tests or imaging often required

Autism spectrum disorder impacts the nervous system and affects the overall cognitive, emotional, social and physical health of the affected individual.

The range and severity of symptoms can vary widely. Common symptoms include difficulty with communication, difficulty with social interactions, obsessive interests and repetitive behaviours.

Early recognition, as well as behavioural, educational and family therapies may reduce symptoms and support development and learning.

Ages affected



Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

The range and severity of symptoms can vary widely. Common symptoms include difficulty with communication, difficulty with social interactions, obsessive interests and repetitive behaviours.

People may experience:

Behavioural: inappropriate social interaction, poor eye contact, compulsive behaviour, impulsivity, repetitive movements, self-harm, or persistent repetition of words or actions

Developmental: learning disability or speech delay in a child

Muscular: poor coordination or tic

Cognitive: intense interest in a limited number of things or problem paying attention

Psychological: unaware of others' emotions or depression

Speech: speech disorder or abnormal tone of voice

Also common: lack of empathy, anxiety, or sensitivity to sound

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure that you contact a health care provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.