

PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT OF ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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Learning Objectives:

1. Discuss the relationship between comorbid Atopic Dermatitis (AD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
2. Describe the experience of managing co-morbid AD and ASD in both child and caregiver

Literature Review Findings:

- Increasing AD severity is linked with anxiety, depression, ADHD and conduct disorders which can be difficult to manage in children with concurrent ASD
- There is limited research that examines the experience of managing co-morbid AD and ASD in both child and caregiver
- Children with co-morbid AD and ASD may experience behavioural, emotional and developmental challenges, requiring more intensive caregiving which place greater psychosocial strain on caregivers and the healthcare system

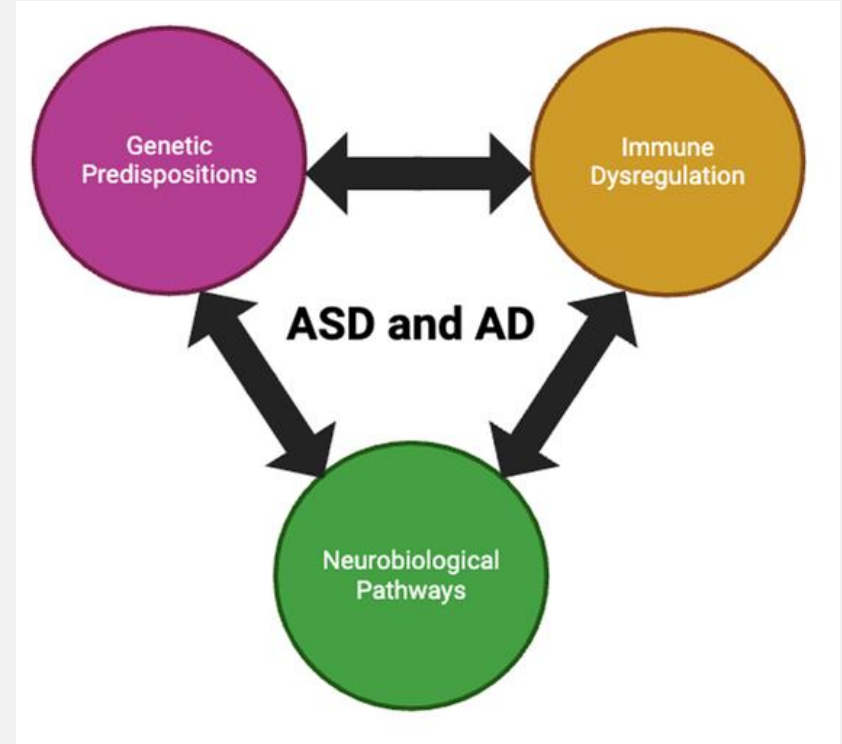
No conflict of interest declared

Contact details:



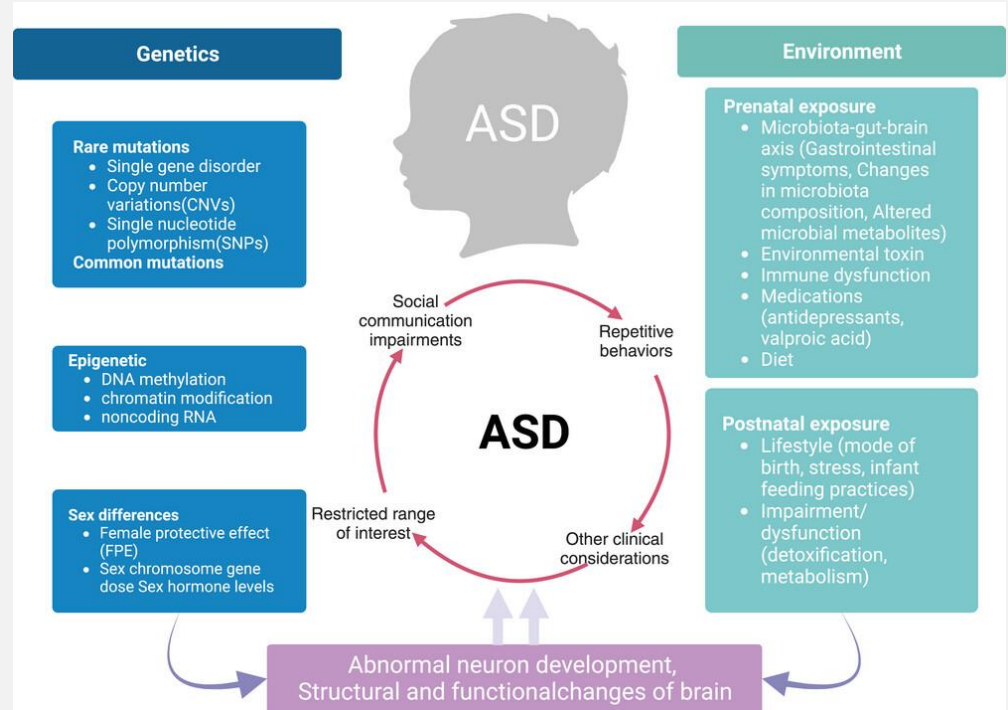
INTRODUCTION

- Complex interplay between AD and ASD
- AD and ASD impose a significant burden on affected children and their caregivers
- Children with co-morbid disease often have more intractable AD
- Co-occurrence of the two conditions leads to more severe individual disease and heightened psychosocial impact



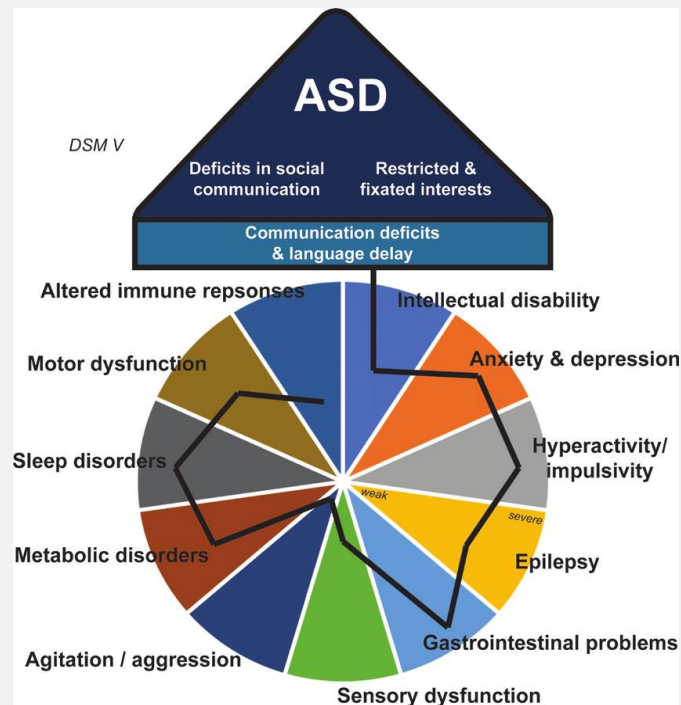
ASD PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

- Diagnosed around the age of 3
- Multifactorial neurodevelopmental condition, which can be influenced by genetic and non-genetic factors
- Triad of clinical features:
 - a. Impairments in social communication
 - b. Impairments in social interaction
 - c. Presence of repetitive or restricted behaviours/interests

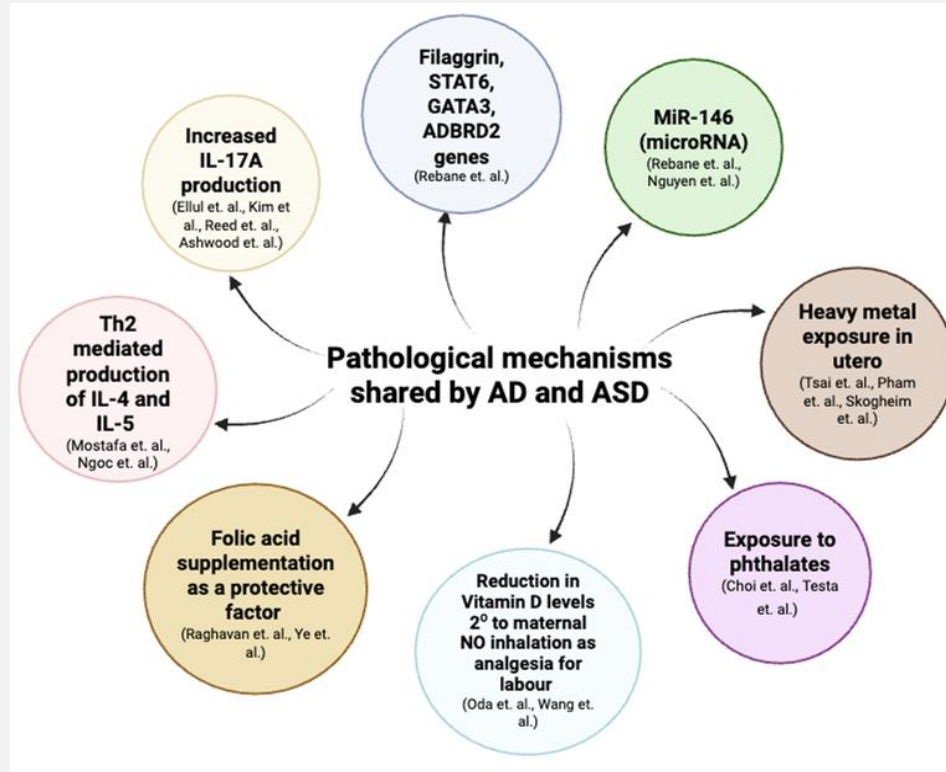


ASD IMPACT

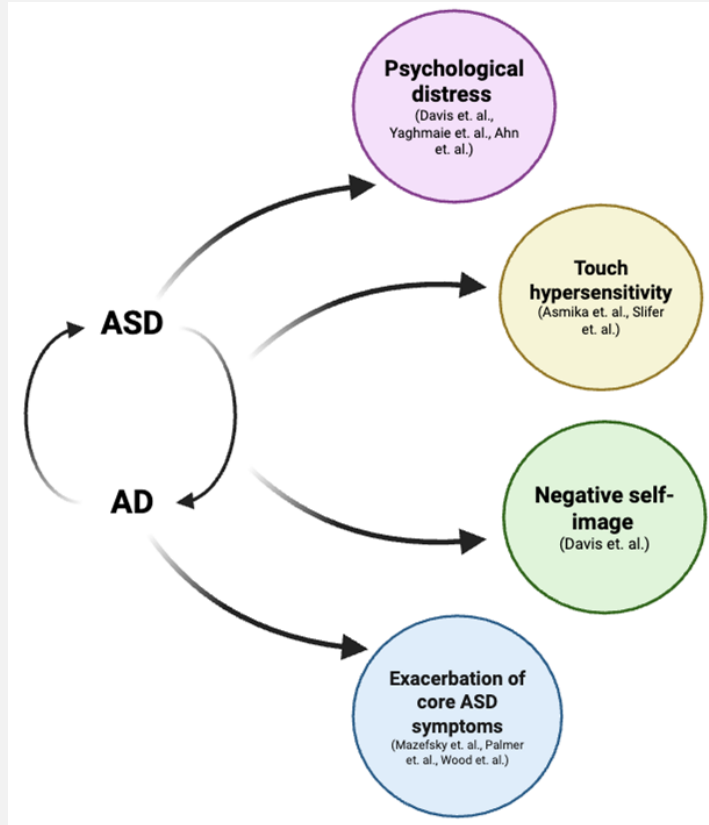
- Associated with many medical and psychiatric co-morbidities including:
 - Intellectual disability
 - Anxiety & depression
 - Hyperactivity/impulsivity
 - Epilepsy
 - Gastrointestinal problems
 - Sensory dysfunction
 - Agitation/aggression
 - Metabolic disorders
 - Sleep disorders
 - Motor dysfunction
 - Altered immune responses



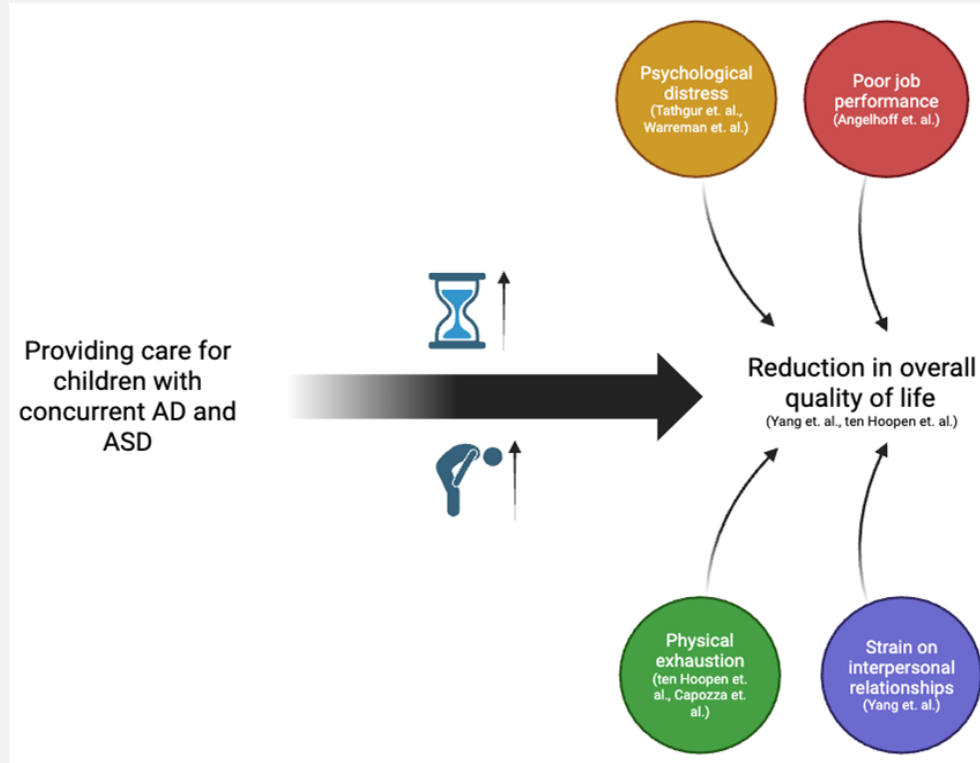
THE INTERPLAY OF AD AND ASD



PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT ON CHILDREN WITH AD AND ASD



PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT ON THE CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN WITH AD AND ASD



SUGGESTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS

1. Have a strong personal support system to help with caregiving needs
2. Seek guidance from an MDT team
3. Obtain the necessary NDIS support packages
4. Access to resources e.g. Practical parenting for eczema families (ESA)
5. Effective management of co-morbidities
6. Making treatment times a routine for the child
7. Effective peri-procedural communication (EPIC) Game Plan
8. Caregiver involvement in developing management plans
9. Avoid confronting language (e.g. 'needles') or invading their safe space
10. Harness the child's imagination e.g. batman = wet dressings

Name: _____



I'VE MADE A PLAN FOR MY PROCEDURE.

I'm going to be comfortable by keeping my grown up close by and...

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> sit on their lap | <input type="checkbox"/> hold their hand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> have a cuddle | <input type="checkbox"/> something else _____ |

I will bring a favourite thing to show the new people I meet:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> toy _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> book _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> game _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> activity _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something else _____ | |

I'm going to use:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> numbing cream _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> cold spray _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> vibration tool / buzzy bee _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> something else _____ |



DURING MY PROCEDURE,

I would like one calm voice to help me, and I'd like that person to be _____

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to watch the procedure | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't want to watch the procedure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please count 1, 2, 3.. when it's time to start | <input type="checkbox"/> Or something else _____ |

I'm going to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> take deep breaths | <input type="checkbox"/> use my amazing imagination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> listen to music | <input type="checkbox"/> watch my device |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something else _____ | |



Afterwards, I'm looking forward to...

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Research investigating the unique psychosocial implications for children with co-morbid AD and ASD and their caregivers is required to:
 - a. Develop integrated approaches for management
 - b. Manage co-morbid psychiatric conditions
 - c. Provide comprehensive support strategies for families

No studies that investigate psychosocial consequences on caregivers of children with co-morbid AD and ASD

REFERENCES

