

Gender Differences in Autistic Spectrum Disorders in an Egyptian Sample

Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of the master degree in Neurology & Psychiatry

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

Thesis: Gender Differences in Autistic Spectrum Disorders
by Yasmine Fouad Ashour Ahmed

I have received the above mentioned thesis from MD Yasmine Fouad Ashour Ahmed. In my careful reading of both theoretical and practical part of the thesis I have noticed, that MD Yasmine Fouad Ashour Ahmed has shown good knowledge on Autistic Spectrum Disorders, and especially on gender differences in these. She has examined and diagnosed the children very carefully using highest level international methods under supervision of Professor Ola Omar Shahin, who is one of the persons who imported these methods to Arabic countries and were responsible for translation into Arabic language.

MD Yasmine Fouad Ashour Ahmed has reported the results very exactly and performed the data analyses in the right way. She has connected her results with the theoretical background and cultural context in a very intelligent way.

The thesis 'Gender Differences in Autistic Spectrum Disorders' by Yasmine Fouad Ashour Ahmed is ready for submission.

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*To every child who suffers from a disability,
To every parent and caregiver who support a child with a disability,
To every specialist who cares for those children,
To every person who cared and cares,
I dedicate this work.*

Abstract

Key words (autism spectrum disorder – gender differences – core ASD symptoms – autism diagnostic interview-revised)

The study was conducted with the aim of finding gender differences in the clinical presentation in the core symptoms of autistic spectrum disorders and its severity. It is a comparative cross sectional study done on 44 patients with ASD divided into 31 male and 13 female. Boys showed significantly higher social quotients. Girls had better receptive language and were significantly more sensitive to noise. Boys were slightly severe in unusual preoccupations, repetitive use or interest in parts of objects, compulsions and rituals. No differences in social development and play.

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List of Abbreviations

(E-S) theory	Empathizing-Systemizing theory
5-HT	Serotonin
A Total	Qualitative abnormalities in reciprocal social interaction
ADI	Autism diagnostic Interview
ADI-R	Autism diagnostic Interview- Revised
ADOS	Autism Diagnostic Observational Schedule
AS	Asperger Syndrome
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
B Total	Qualitative abnormalities in communication
C Total	Restricted, repetitive and stereotyped pattern of behavior
CARS	Childhood Autism Rating Scale
CDD	Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
CNS	Central Nervous System
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
DSM-III	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – 3 rd edition
DSM-III-R	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – 3 rd edition-Revised
DSM-IV	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – 4 th edition
DSM-V	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual – 5 th edition
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
fMRI	Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging
FT	Fetal testosterone

GABA	Gamma Amino Butyric Acid
GI	Gastro-Intestinal
HFA	High Functioning Autism
IBD	Inflammatory Bowel Disease
ICD-10	International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems
Ig A	Immunoglobulin A
Ig G	Immunoglobulin G
Ig M	Immunoglobulin M
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
MMR	Measles Mumps Rubella
MNS	Motor Neuron System
MR	Mental Retardation
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MSDD	Multi System Developmental Disorder
NF	Neurofibromatosis
NK	Natural killer
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PDD-NOS	Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified
PKU	Phenylketonuria
SIB	Self-injurious behavior

SQ	Social Quotient
SRS	Social Responsiveness Scale
SSRIs	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors
Th-1	T helper - 1
Th-2	T helper – 2
ToM	Theory of Mind
TSC	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex
VABS	Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale
VIP	Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide