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Department of Medical Studies for Children

Faculty of postgraduate childhood Studies

# THE EFFECT OF MEDICATION, MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS ON BONE MINERAL DENSITY IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) CHILDREN

#### A Thesis Statement

Submitted for Fulfillment of Master Degree in Childhood Studies (Children with Special Needs) Department of Medical Studies for Children

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#### **Abbreviations**

IQ = Intelligence Quotient

BMD = Bone mineral Density

CARS = Childhood Autism Rating Scale

SD = Standard Deviation

AP = Antipsychotic

TAP = Typical Antipsychotic

AAP = Atypical Antipsychotic

DEXA = Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry

ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder

GIT = Gastrointestinal tract

NAS = National Autism Society

BMI = Body Mass Index

RNI = Reference Nutrient Intake

EAR = Estimated Average Requirement

RDA = Recommended Daily Allowance

DRI = Dietary Reference Intake

NSC = National Research Center

CEBI = Children's Eating Behavior Inventory

FPI = Food Preferences Inventory

DBD = Disruptive Behavior Disorder

BCT = Bone Cortical Thickness

#### **Abstract**

**Background:** Autism Spectrum Disorder (*ASD*) is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder, characterized by impaired social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communications, and restricted/repetitive interests/behaviors, the presentation and severity of symptoms of ASD are different in each person.

Children with ASD may be at risk for suboptimal bone development due to poor calcium and vitamin D intake, use of antipsychotic medications, and decrease or limited physical activities.

**Objectives:**to investigate the effect of antipsychotic medications, and medical supplements on bone mineral density of ASD children.

**Methodology:** the present study is a cross-sectional study that was conducted on 36 children with ASD (31 boys and 5 girls) aging between 3 – 9 years old. They were chosen from the neuropsychological assessment unit of the special need center in the faculty of postgraduate childhood studies, Ain Shams University. The study was conducted from the 1st of October 2018 till the 15th of April 2019.

The children were divided into four groups:

<u>Group I:</u> 12 Autistic children on antipsychotic medications and on medical supplements.

<u>Group II:</u>8 Autistic children on antipsychotic medications and with no medical supplements.

<u>Group III:</u> 9 Autistic children with no antipsychotic medications and on medical supplements.

<u>Group IV:</u> 7 Autistic children with no antipsychotic medications and no medical supplements.

All children were subjected to medical and psychiatric history taking, psychiatric examinations and assessment using Childhood Autism Rating Scale (*CARS*) and Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (*DEXA*) scanning.

**Results:** From the results of the DEXA of whole body of autistic children, it has been concluded that 75% (9children out of 12) of Group I, 62.5% (5 children out of 8) of Group II, 77.8% (7 children out of 9) of Group III and 71.4% (5 children out of 7) of Group IV, had osteopenia versus 25% of Group I, 37.5% of Group II, 22.2% of group III and 28.6% of Group IV respectively had normal bone mineral density. The DEXA scan results of lumbar spine revealed that 66.7% (8 children out of 12) of Group I, 100% (8 children out of 8) of Group II, 88.9% (8 children out of 9) of Group III, and 71.4% (5 children out of 7) of Group IV had osteopenia, versus 33.3% of Group I, 0 % of Group II, 11.1% of Group III and 28.8% of Group IV respectively had normal bone mineral density. And lastly the DEXA scan of hip revealed that 54.4% (6 children out of 11) of Group I, 57.1% (4 children out of 7) of Group II, 57.1% (4 children out of 7) of Group III and 66.7% (4 children out of 6) of Group IV had osteopenia versus 45.5 % of Group I, 42.9 % of Group II, 42.9 % of Group III and 33.3% of Group IV respectively had normal bone mineral density with no significant difference between the four study groups.

**Conclusions:** Antipsychotic medications and medical supplements affects bone mineral density causing osteopenia in the majority of cases receiving those medications.

**Keywords:** Autism Spectrum Disorder, Bone mineral density, Osteopenia, Antipsychotic medications, medical supplements.