

Lindner Center
of HOPE |  Health™

Is it Autism?
Community Education Day 2024



IS IT AUTISM?

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AGENDA

1. Explore some common myths about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
2. Review diagnostic criteria for ASD
3. Discuss the role of psychological testing for ASD



COMMON ASD MYTHS



MYTH #1

Autism is caused by vaccines



MYTH #2

ASD didn't exist in our grandparents' generation



MYTH #3

People with ASD have intellectual impairment

MYTH #4

People with ASD cannot engage in meaningful relationships

MYTH #5

Kids with an ASD diagnosis will never be independent

ON THE SPECTRUM

- Neurodivergent
- Neuroatypical



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DSM-5 DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR ASD

A. Persistent deficits in social communication and social interactions across multiple contexts

- Social-emotional reciprocity
- Non-verbal cues
- Interpersonal connection

B. Restrictive/repetitive patterns of behavior or interests (2+)

- Stereotypies, echolalia
- Lack of flexibility
- Fixated interests
- Hyper- or Hyposensitive to sensory input

DSM-5 DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR ASD

- Level 1: "Requiring support"
 - noticeable impairment in social communication and functioning
- Level 2: "Requiring substantial support"
 - marked deficits, clear impairments even with support
- Level 3: "Requiring very substantial support"
 - severe deficits, significant interference in all spheres

The background features a complex geometric design. A diagonal line runs from the top-left to the bottom-right. To the left of this line, there are several distinct patterns: a white circle at the top left, a grey semi-circle, a series of concentric blue circles, a pink area with diagonal lines, a pink area with a grid of lines, and a grey triangle. The right side of the image is a solid blue field.

TESTING FOR AUTISM

THE TESTING PROCESS

- What to expect
 - The overall process
 - What do we measure?
 - Who's involved?



THE ROLE OF TESTING

- Who may benefit from testing?
- Why get testing?
 - Children
 - Adolescents and adults



OVERLAPPING SYMPTOMS

WHAT ELSE MIGHT IT BE?

- Social (Pragmatic) Communication Disorder
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Anxiety Disorders and OCD
- Behavioral concerns
- Depression
- Sensory processing difficulty
- “Overcontrolled” personal traits



Q & A

THANK YOU

