

Autism Spectrum Disorder: Misconceptions & Facts

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Misconceptions

X Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is an emotional problem.

X Individuals can be affected by ASD or another disorder, but they cannot be affected by multiple disorders.

X ASD occurs more often in people with high incomes and higher levels of education.

X ASD can be cured.

X Individuals with ASD do not become attached or show affection to others.

X All children with ASD have savant abilities in specific areas.

X The occurrence of ASD is equal between boys and girls.

Facts

✓ ASD is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects social communication and social interaction as well as behaviors, interests, and activities.

✓ It is common for ASD to co-occur with other developmental, psychiatric, neurologic, chromosomal, and/or genetic diagnoses.

✓ ASD affects individuals of all races, ethnicities, social classes, lifestyles, and educational backgrounds equally.

✓ ASD cannot be cured; however, there are many treatment options that enable individuals with ASD to compensate for areas of challenge.

✓ Individuals with ASD may demonstrate attachment or affectionate behaviors to parents and/or caregivers; however, such attachment or affection may be on the individual's own terms or expressed in a manner that is different from what society would typically expect.

✓ Individuals with ASD often have individual strengths and weaknesses across academic and functional areas; however, few individuals with ASD have savant abilities.

✓ ASD is more common in boys than girls with 1 in 54 boys being affected in comparison to 1 in 252 girls or approximately 5 boys to every 1 girl receiving an ASD diagnosis.