hypothesis of a possible link between GI dysbiosis and ASD. The amount of studies documenting the possible involvement of microbiota in ASD pathogenesis led to considering whether treatments acting on gut flora could ameliorate ASD symptoms. The available findings, although preliminary, would indicate data gut microbiota might represent an interesting field of research for a better understanding of the pathophysiology of ASD (of also of other neuropsychiatric disorders), and possibly a target for the development of innovative treatments just labelled as "psychobiotics".

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ECP0016

Women and Girls with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is characterized by a triad of difficulties including altered communication, impairements in social internactions, as well as restricted interests and repetitive behaviours. It used to be known as a predominantly male disorder, but recent research has shown that the male/female ratio is trending downward and that the actual estimate is about 3:1. Until now, diagnostic criteria have been developed based on research conducted primarily in male populations. However, in recent years, female autism has attracted scientific interest, revealing some unique features in the presentation of this disorder in girls and women. This presentation will focus on gender differences and characteristics of ASD in females, including personal descriptions and experiences of women diagnosed with ASD.

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ECP0017

Sensory and Motor Difficulties in Autism

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Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by difficulties in social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behaviors. A meta-analysis describes motor difficulties in ASD (Downey and Rapport, 2012) in 85% to 90% of cases (Liu et al. 2010). Electronic devices will help to better characterize these movement impairments (Gargot et al., in press). Another meta-analysis shows difficulties in sensorial integration in ASD, with a prevalence ranging from 45 to 95% (Ben Sasson, 2009). Sensorimotor contigencies are learned interactively (Jacquey et al., 2020), in a perception-action loop, an early milestone in development (Piaget, 1937). A cascade model (Bonnet-Brilhault, 2017) hypothesizes that social difficulties stem in sensorimotor difficulties (Cook , 2016 ; Neal, 2011 ; Dziuk et al. 2007 ; Kojovic, 2019), themselves atypically developed due to a peculiar neurobiological background. This model predicts that early sensorimotor reeducation could prevent the development of social difficulties, whereas the rehabilitation of social skills would improve only part of the impairment, that is driven by sensorimotor processes. How to target these issues? Grandin, 1992 and Edelson et al., 1999 validated the efficacy of deep pressure therapy in ASD. It is important to improve attractivity and decrease the stigmatization of this method. Oto is a compressive armchair with inflatable cushions controlled electronically. It records level of pressure and its duration, chosen by the user. A systematic review showed the efficacy of virtual reality in ASD (Mesa-Gresa et al, 2018). A CAVE device could habituate children to ecological audio-visual stimulations.

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