

Mothering in Child and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder

泛自閉症障礙兒童青少年與其母子關係

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Objective: Parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) had reported increased stress and decreased quality of life, while severity of ASD symptoms had been associated with maternal depression. Previous report showed autistic children had less affection and more overprotection and authoritarian control from their parents than their unaffected siblings and controls; while longitudinal study showed improvement in mother-child relationship in adolescents with ASD when they exit high school. This study examined mothering and mother-child relationship in children and adolescents with ASD as compared with non-ASD controls.

Methods: The study enrolled 198 probands, aged 6-18, with DSM-IV ASD (53 typical autism (autism), 68 high-functioning autism (HFA), 77 Asperger's Disorder (AS)) and 198 non-ADHD. Parents received Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised and K-SADS-E interviews and mothers reported on mothering, mother-child relationship and family function.

Results: The ASD group had less overprotection, more impaired relation with mothers, more problems at home and less maternal perceived family support than non-ASD controls. Moreover, the autism group had less overprotection, more impaired mother-child interaction, and more problems at home than the AS group, which had least maternal perceived family support among the three groups .

Conclusion: The finding suggested that the presence of ASD had impact on maternal parenting behaviors, mother-child relations, and family function. Programs targeting family function and mother-child relationships should be incorporated in the intervention for children with ASD.