

Features of Suicidal Behavior in the Context of Autistic Disorders

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Introduction: Most studies on suicide exclude subjects with autistic spectrum disorders, although they may be a risk group for suicidal behavior.

Objectives: The present study aims to stress the importance of epidemiological and clinical peculiarities of the suicidal behavior in autistic spectrum disorders, targeting its complex causal mechanisms.

Aims: This literature review has an informative purpose and also represents a warning sign, on an often ignored population that is at risk of suicide, while emphasizing on its optimal prevention.

Methods: The current study collected all the data from Medline PubMed, by searching key words like autistic spectrum disorders, suicidal behavior, pervasive developmental disorders, Asperger's syndrome.

Results: While studying the articles in PubMed we found out that approximately 21% of individuals with autistic spectrum disorders show suicidal behavior, especially suicidal ideation, but also failed or even accomplished attempts. Suicidal ideation is extremely common among teenagers and young adults with autistic spectrum disorders, more frequently in patients with forms of autism that include an increased overall functionality / Asperger's syndrome.

Conclusions: The causality of the suicidal behavior in autistic spectrum disorders is complex, starting from development specificities of the individuals enrolled in this group, continuing with its relationship regarding depression or anxiety and also the presence of the socio-familial disturbing factors.