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AUTISM COMORBIDITIES AND SOCIAL DEFICITS IN CHILDREN AGED 7-14

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Introduction: Along with other neurodevelopmental disorders, recently, interest in studying the comorbidities of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) has grown. According to previous findings many ASD children often do experience a number of comorbid medical conditions and about 60-70% of them present with additional neuropsychiatric Disorders.

Aim: We aimed to examine the comorbidities of autistic children and identify whether or not the comorbidities affect their social and behavioral profile.

Methods: One hundred and seven children with ASD were surveyed. For all subjects, their parents were asked to complete three forms as the ATEC (autism treatment evaluation checklist), Vineland Social Maturity and a checklist for general and biomedical information. We then compared the subjects as two groups with and without comorbidities.

Results: Fifty one (44.3 %) of subjects had at least one comorbid condition, and thirty six (31.3%) had at least one additional neuropsychiatric condition. Children with comorbidities showed significant lower score in social quotient against the others without comorbidities ($p < 0.05$, CI 1.6: 20.5). There was a significant correlation between number of comorbidities and physical-behavioral profile of children ($r=0.172$, $p < 0.05$). Comparison of means between two groups showed a trend of higher severity in all dimensions of ATEC in Children with comorbidities but not significantly.

Conclusion: Our results extended the autism literature in association of comorbidities with lower performance in social and behavioral issues.