IMFAR: ISRAEL MEETING FOR AUTISM RESEARCH

Ben Gurion University
February 13-14, 2019
The Autism Center
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

25 members
10 departments
>50 graduate students
4 pillars:

Research  Clinical Services  Training  Community Engagement
Ongoing Activities

- Hierarchy of BA→MA courses
- Student scholarships/fellowships
- Monthly seminar
- Development of clinical services with Hadassah
- Annual stakeholder conferences
- ADOS/ADI trainings
- Involvement in national policy
Research | Children's Health

Autism Spectrum Disorder and Particulate Matter Air Pollution before, during, and after Pregnancy: A Nested Case-Control Analysis within the Nurses' Health Study II Cohort

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DEVELOPMENTAL CHANGES IN ASD EXPRESSION OF YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS

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Male Bias in ASD?

- Kanner’s and Asperger’s samples were predominantly male.

- Range in male:female ratio in ASD literature is 11.7: 1 to 1.33:1.
  
  (Fombonne, Quirke, & Hagen, 2011; Kim et al., 2011; Lai, Baron-Cohen & Buxbaum, 2015)

- Recent research suggests male:female ratios in ASD is 2-3:1.
  
  (Werling & Geschwind, 2015)
Where are the girls?

- Females diagnosed later than males
  
  (Lehnhardt et al., 2016)

- Camouflage effect
  
  (Rynkiewicz et al., 2016)

- Instruments validated and reliable on males
  
  (Lai et al., 2015, 2017)

- Expression is different in girls
  
  (Young, Oreve, & Speranza, 2018)
Differences between males and females with ASD

- Behavioral profiles
- Cognitive profiles
- Age of diagnosis
- Expression of autism symptomatology
- Co-morbidity
IQ measurements

Chart Title

IQ measurement

* p<0.05

2-3 year olds
5 year olds

males
females
Comparison of male and female raw scores on ADOS modules
Results and conclusions

- No differences in ASD symptomology between males and females before age 3.
- Fewer girls referred before age 3.
- Less language in the boys referred for ASD diagnosis before age 3.
- Item analyses revealed difference between imaginative play between boys and girls even before age 3.
Results and conclusions

- Significant differences emerged between the boys and girls by age 5 with girls exhibiting less severe autism symptomatology.
- Differences not dependent on cognitive abilities.
- Young females with ASD has not been fully characterized.
- Females receiving an early ASD diagnosis (by age three) reveal similar patterns to males receiving an early ASD diagnosis.
- Differences may appear in developmental trajectory.