

What is Autism ?

Autism is defined by scientists as a state of isolation, severe withdrawal and inability of communication, and defined infantile autism as those children who show disturbance in most of the following aspects: love of routine , lack of social communication, a repetition of motor activities, language disorder, sensual disorder, lack of emotional communication, appearing as a child with deaf and mutism, poor response to family stimulation activities. The new statistics estimated for the current year is that the incidence of autism syndrome by about 1 in every 300 child, with no accurate statistics on the number of autistic children in Palestine. According a study conducted by JACCO, the number of people with autism in the city of Jerusalem reached 120 diagnosed cases and more than 280 cases of undiagnosed professionally that only have characteristics of autism. Autism occurs to males more than females at an average of 4 to 1. Autism affects the normal growth of the brain in the area of social life and communication skills. facing difficulties in the field of non-verbal communication, social interaction, recreational activities and communicating with the outer world.

Autistic people may make a recurrent behavior abnormally, such as flapping their hands frequently, or shaking their body frequently, they may also show unusual responses when dealing with people, or being attached with certain things abnormally, such as playing with a certain car frequently without trying to change.

Autism Symptoms

Behavioral characteristics

Failure in communication with others, seriously deficient in their speech or loss of the ability to talk, play frequently, and retardation in capacities in certain areas, avoidance in looking in the eyes of others, sometimes severe behavior for some of them.



Motor characteristics

Autistic child reaches almost the same level of motor development of the normal child of same age with a simple grow tardiness, but there are some aspects of motor development that appear to be abnormal, including: a repetition of certain movements, indulge in some sensual experiences for a long time, such as staring at the light source, a special way to stand with heads bent and curled arms, excessive movement, shortage in attention, impaired motor synergies in general.

Lingual characteristics

lingual development is slow and may not develop at all, words are used differently from other children, whereas the words are related to unusual meanings for these words, the communication is made through signals instead of words, the attention and focus lasts for a short time.

Social characteristics

One of the most prominent characteristics of autism is the negative social behavior, whereas he/she spends less time with others, pays less attention to make friendships, responds less to social signals such as a smile or eye contact, when he/she tries to get friends but he/she doesn't keep them because of the lack of reciprocity in their behavior.

Emotional characteristics

Lack of fear of real dangers, the inability to understand the feelings of those around him/her, exposure to bouts of crying and screaming.

Autism Types

Autism is one of five disorders that are pervasive developmental disorders (PDD) which is characterized by a range of neurological problems, as follows:

1. Autism is a developmental disorder that affects the ability of the individual to communicate verbally and non verbally, and affects his/her interaction with the people around.
2. Rite disorder which was named after Dr. Anderson Rite, which is a neurological disorder resulting from Neurological defect and it occurs most for females, associated with mobility problems, in addition to the obvious weakness in mental capacity as a result of mental retardation. Rite syndrome features an apparent normal growth before and after birth with motor sense through the first 5 months.
3. Asperger disorder, this syndrome has been described for the first time by the German physician Asperger Hatz, this syndrome is characterized by the existence of normal language abilities in terms of expressive and receptive. But has a deficit in establishing relationships with peers that fits the level of growth, lack of social or emotional exchange, or engage in special habits. At the level of IQ, it reaches the medium levels.
4. disintegration disorder is characterized by apparent normal growth at least during the first two years of a child's life, which is reflected through communication, social relationships and play. Then child starts lose skills acquired, such as: language, social skills and adaptive behaviors, play, motor skills.
5. Unspecified disorder which is characterized by a severe disorder which affects the mutual social interaction or capabilities of verbal and non verbal communication, but this disorder is not classified as one of the pervasive developmental disorders.

