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Summary

PREVALENCE OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTIPATION IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

A cross descriptive study was conducted on 160 children with ASD (aged 24 - 72 months) at the National Hospital of Pediatrics to determine the prevalence of functional constipation (FC) among children with ASD. The children with ASD were diagnosed by DSM-IV criteria. FC was evaluated by Rome IV criteria. Results showed that 23,1% children with ASD had FC, remarkably higher between 48 and 72 months of age (37.3%). Prevalence of FC was significantly higher in the group with co-morbidities of mental retardation, eating disorders, sleep disorders, behavioral disorders and sensory processing disorders (approx. 40%). There was no statistically significant difference between the rates of FC in children with severe autism and children with mild to moderate autism. These findings suggest FC is a common co-morbidity in children with ASD, which needs to be evaluated and treated early.

Keywords: Autism spectrum disorder, functional constipation, children, prevalence, disorder.