~ MARTHA ALMENDAREZ ~

~ AUTISM ~

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By Martha Almendariz
Autism is defined as a set of complex neurodevelopmental disorders, characterized by difficulties in social relationship, impaired communication skills, and stereotyped patterns, restricted and repetitive behavior.

Autism is the best known of the pervasive developmental disorders (PDD), which for this reason also called autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and are considered neuropsychiatric disorders that present a variety of clinical manifestations and organic causes, and affect different ways and with varying degrees of intensity to each individual; this means that two people with the same diagnosis may behave differently and have different skills.

It is considered that the incidence of autism worldwide is three to six children out of every 1,000, and there are four times more likely to appear in men than in women, with no distinction between races, socioeconomic status or geographic area.
Causes of Autism

Often the causes of autism are unknown; although in many cases is suspected to be due to changes or mutations in the genes, not all genes involved in the development of this disease they have been identified. Scientific research has linked the onset of autism in children with the following:

Genetic agents as the cause of autism has been shown to exist in autistic disorder some genetic load. In clinical studies with twins developed, it has been observed that when the disorder in one of the brothers is detected, there is a high percentage (about 90%) chance that the other brother also develop. If the study has been carried out in the family, statistics show that there is a 5% probability of occurrence in the neonate in case you a sibling with the disorder, which is likely quite higher than would in the case of there being no documented history in your family. These data clearly indicate a genetic burden linked to autistic disorder. The investigations aim to identify the genes involved in the onset of the disorder, and have already established direct relationship between inhibition of gene neuroligin NLI and the development of autism, although it is known that there are more genes involved.
Types of autism

Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), among which is autism are characterized in that those affected have difficulty functioning in various areas: communication (verbal and nonverbal), social interaction, and conducting activities, It is limited in number and presents a repetitive and monotonous pattern.

Asperger syndrome fairly mild autism in which patients are unable to interpret other people’s emotional states (lack of empathy). These people are unable to relate the information provided by the environment and the body language of people about the cognitive and emotional states of these.

Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) is diagnosed children with communication difficulties, socialization and behavior, but do not meet the specific criteria for the diagnosis of any of the other pervasive developmental disorders.
Although it is not easy to accurately identify a child with this disorder, the fact is that there are some symptoms that make suspect the presence of autism.

Main symptoms of autism

Their social interaction is poor: usually initially detected by the people closest to the baby, when they observe that it is indifferent to their surroundings or presents prolonged periods of focusing attention on an object or person in particular, isolating themselves from the rest. This alteration may occur from the moment of birth or develop past a certain time. They do not usually respond to verbalizing his name and a large number of occasions, manifestly avoid eye contact with the people around them.

Lack of empathy: patients have difficulty interpreting the emotional state of the people around them, and their thoughts, being unable to understand social cues, such as tone of voice or facial expressions. This situation adds that, usually, these people do not focus their attention on the face of others and, therefore, are not able to see and learn appropriate behavior patterns.

Have difficulty communicating (verbal and non-verbal communication). Some individuals do not develop any kind of language, do not speak or are able to communicate with expressions or gestures; others did speak, but the form and content of his speech is not adequate, and tend to repeat words or phrases or ignore the caller.

Perform Stereotyped and repetitive movements such as rocking, spinning compulsively, etc. can also be a symptom of autism. In certain cases the subjects even develop self-injurious behavior such as biting or head banging. Often they have trouble assimilating any changes in their environment, and leave the routine or familiar surrounding produce anxiety.
Inability to self-recognition: sometimes they call themselves in the third person, by name, rather than first-person "I" or "me"

Ability to altered social game: are children who do not know, or are unable, to develop games that involve interaction with other children. In addition, his imaginative capacity is very limited so you can not participate in simulation games.

Other associated symptoms that may present patients are anxiety, sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal disturbances, violent crises, mental retardation ...

Autism symptoms can vary significantly, not only one person to another, but in the same patient over time.

Clinically, it has established a clear relationship between the appearance of autistic disorder
Fragile X Syndrome: is the leading cause of inherited mental retardation and is caused by a mutation in a gene on chromosome affected X. by this disease have features common to autism.