

Role of Environmental Risk Factors in Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Abstract : Neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism can cause lifelong disability. Genetic and environmental factors are believed to contribute to the development of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), but relatively few studies have considered potential environmental risks. Several industrial chemicals and other environmental exposures are recognized causes of neurodevelopmental disorders and subclinical brain dysfunction. The toxic effects of such chemicals in the developing human brain are not known. This review highlights the role of environmental risk factors including drugs, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, pesticides, vaccines, and other suspected neurotoxicants including persistent organic pollutants for ASD. It also provides information about the environmental toxins to yield new insights into factors that affect autism risk as well as an opportunity to investigate the relation between autism and environmental exposure.

Keywords : Autism Spectrum Disorder, ASD, environmental factors, neurodevelopmental disorder

Conference Title : ICBESE 2015 : International Conference on Biological, Ecological and Environmental Sciences, and Engineering

Conference Location : Penang, Malaysia

Conference Dates : December 03-04, 2015