

Is the Immune System Abnormal in Autism?

childhood
disability
LINK



Glossary of Terms

Immunoglobins E: A specific protein (part of the group of proteins known as antibodies) synthesized in response to the presence of a foreign substance in the body.

About the study

The authors identified a small group of families that have a child with autism and performed complete immunological testing on them. The findings did not suggest that major abnormalities of the immune system were associated with autism, perhaps with the exception of an elevation of immunoglobins E in some children.

What families & practitioners should know

Contrary to what has been previously suggested, children with autism are **not** more likely to have problems with their immune system. Immunology testing is not necessary as a routine diagnostic test in children with autism.

Reference

[Stern, L., Francoeur, M.J., Primeau, M.N., Sommerville W., Fombonne, E., & Mazer, B.D. \(2005\). Immune Function in Autistic Children. *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*. 95, 558-565.](#)