

Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL)

The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, 4th Edition

The updated edition of this authoritative, comprehensive, in-depth medical guide features information on more than 1,850 medical topics in language accessible to adult laypersons. Disease/disorder articles typically cover definition; description; causes and symptoms; diagnosis; treatments; prevention; and more. Test/treatment articles typically cover definition; purposes; precautions; preparation; risks; normal and abnormal results; and much more. Biographical and historical sidebars appear throughout the text.

Medical updates include information on the new mammogram guidelines, CPR procedures and the status of H1N1 – as well as many drug recalls. In addition to details on managing diseases and conditions, this set contains valuable information on nutrition and wellness.

KEY FEATURES

- 108 new entries and more than 500 updated entries
- More than 1,850 total entries (500 to 4,000 words) written by medical specialists and reviewed by expert medical advisers
- 765 full-color illustrations, photographs and tables
- Biographical sidebars give extra information on historic and living figures in the medical sciences
- Resources section comprised of books, periodicals, websites and contact information for national health agencies and organizations
- Comprehensive subject index and glossary of terms

FULL COLOR

Autism

Major brain structures implicated in autism

Cerebral cortex, Basal ganglia, Hippocampus, Corpus callosum, Brain stem, Cerebellum

The development of autism may be related to abnormalities in parts of the brain responsible for processing language and sensory information.

KEY TERMS

Autism spectrum—A type of mental illness that is used to treat depression; it is also sometimes used to treat autism.

Asperger syndrome—Children who have autistic behavior but no problems with language and no clinically significant cognitive delay.

Fragile X syndrome—A genetic condition related to the X chromosome that affects mental, physical and sensory development.

Major abnormalities—The family of drugs that includes the psychotropic or neuroleptic drugs, sometimes used to help autistic people. They carry significant risk of side effects, including drowsiness and movement disorders, and should be prescribed with caution.

Optic chiasm—A type of drug that blocks the actions of natural opiates in the system. This makes some people, including some people with autism, appear more responsive to their environment.

Phenylketonuria (PKU)—An enzyme deficiency present at birth that disrupts metabolism and causes brain damage. This rare inherited defect may be related to the development of autism.

Rubella—Also known as German measles. When a woman contracts rubella during pregnancy, her developing infant may be damaged. One of the problems that may result is autism.

Schizotaxia—A class of drugs, including Statins, used to treat people with autism. They may make children calmer and better able to concentrate, but they also may limit growth or have other side effects.

Tuberous sclerosis—A genetic disease that causes skin problems, seizures, and mental retardation. Autism occurs more often in individuals with tuberous sclerosis.

Autism. The repetitive behaviors are often self-soothing responses to sensory stimulation from the outside world.

Sensory problems

The sensory world poses a real problem to many autistic children, who seem overwhelmed by their own senses. A child with autism may ignore objects or become obsessed with them, continually touching the object or the movement of his or her fingers over it. Some children with autism may react to sounds by banging their head or flapping their fingers. Some high-functioning autistic adults who have written books about their childhood experiences report that sounds were often excruciatingly painful to them. Facing them is withdrawal from their environment or try to cope by withdrawing into their own world of actions and movements.

Diagnosis

There is no medical test for diagnosing autism. Diagnosis is made after careful observation and screening by parents, caregivers, and physicians. Early diagnosis is beneficial in treating the symptoms of autism. Some early warning signs are:

- avoiding eye contact
- avoiding physical contact such as hugs
- inability to play make-believe

• not pointing out interesting objects

• not responding to conversation directed at listener

• practicing excessively repetitive behaviors

• repeating words or phrases

• losing skills and/or language after learning them

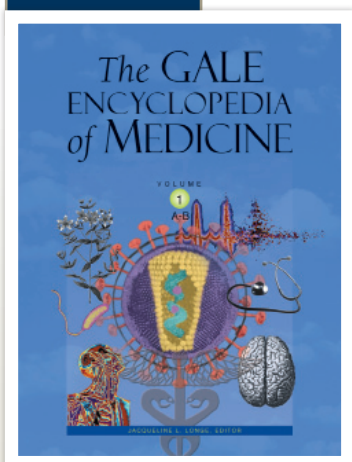
• Some parents feel there is a problem or their pediatrician has identified developmental problems during well-baby check-ups. They can seek out developmental pediatricians for further diagnosis. There are several screening tests used. They are:

- Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)—a test based on a 15-point scale where specific behaviors are observed by the physician.
- Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (CHAT)—a test to detect autism in 18-month-olds that uses questionnaire filled out by both the parents and the pediatrician.
- Autism Screening Questionnaire—a 48-item questionnaire for diagnosing children five and older.
- Screening Tool for Autism in Two-Year-Olds—a direct observation of three skill areas including play, motor imitation, and joint attention.

Some children have a few of the symptoms of autism, but not enough to be diagnosed with the "classic" form of the condition. Children who have autistic behavior but no problems with language may be diagnosed with Asperger syndrome by using the

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NEW EDITION



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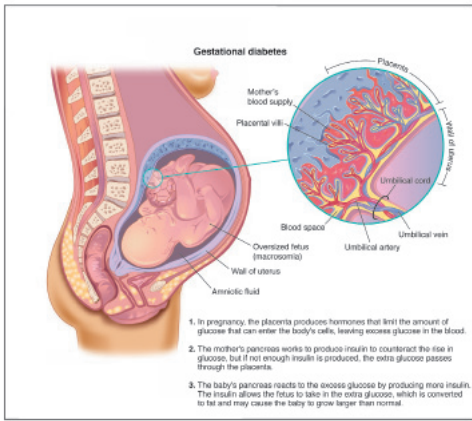
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The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, 4th Edition covers more than 1,850 topics – including medical conditions, ailments, afflictions and test results – from abdominal ultrasounds to Zoonosis.

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1. In pregnancy, the placenta produces hormones that limit the amount of glucose that can enter the body's cells, leaving excess glucose in the blood.
 2. The mother's pancreas works to produce insulin to counteract the rise in glucose. But if not enough insulin is produced, the extra glucose passes through the placenta.
 3. The baby's pancreas reacts to the excess glucose by producing more insulin. The insulin allows the fetus to take in the extra glucose, which is converted to fat and may cause the baby to grow larger than normal.

(Illustration by Electronic Illustrators Group. Reproduced by permission of Gale, a part of Cengage Learning.)

during pregnancy. Ninety percent of those women develop gestational diabetes, about 8% have pre-existing type 2 (insulin resistant) diabetes, while about 1% have pre-existing type 1 (insulin deficiency) diabetes.

Description

Race and ethnicity strongly affect the rate of development of gestational diabetes. Only about 1.4–2% of Caucasian women develop gestational diabetes, while as many as 15% of Native American women from tribes in the Southwest United States develop the disorder. Between 5% and 8% of Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans develop gestational diabetes. If a woman experiences gestational diabetes, the chance of her developing it again in future pregnancies is as high as 68%.

Carbohydrates (sugars and starches) found in foods such as sweets, potatoes, pasta, and breads, are broken down during digestion into glucose, a simple sugar that circulates in the blood and is used by cells for energy. The level of glucose changes depending on what food and how much of it a person eats. The level usually is highest about two hours after a meal. However, in order for the body to remain healthy, blood glucose levels must stay stable with certain narrow limits. In healthy people, the hormone insulin regulates the blood glucose level by controlling how much glucose enters cells. Once in cells, glucose either is used

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NEW TOPICS FOUND IN THE GALE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MEDICINE, 4TH EDITION

- Alagille syndrome
- Anti-aging diet
- Anti-cancer diet
- Antioxidants
- Aortic valve replacement
- Asperger syndrome
- Avian flu
- Bandages and dressings
- Basal cell carcinoma
- Bedbug infestation
- Body image
- Bone scan
- Borderline personality disorder
- Breastfeeding
- Breastfeeding problems
- Cancer
- Cancer vaccines
- Childhood obesity
- Colitis
- Complete blood count
- Congestive heart failure
- Craniopharyngioma
- Dental fillings
- Dental implants
- Dental sealants
- Dental x rays
- Detoxification diets
- Digital rectal examination
- Distal pancreatectomy
- Dyspareunia
- Ear, nose and throat surgery
- Eating disorders
- Eczema
- Endoscopy
- Enhanced external counterpulsation
- Epilepsy
- Epstein-Barr virus
- Fainting
- Fecal occult blood test
- Female orgasmic disorder
- First aid
- Gastric bypass
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- Germ cell tumors
- Gluten-free diet
- Gum disease
- H1N1 influenza A
- Heart disease
- Hiatal hernia
- Human papillomavirus
- Hypoactive sexual desire disorder
- Infectious disease
- Influenza vaccine
- Inhalants and related disorders
- Laminectomy
- Late effects of cancer treatment
- Light therapy
- Lobectomy
- Low sugar diet
- Lumbar puncture
- Mediterranean diet
- Memory loss
- Mercury poisoning
- Methamphetamine
- MRSA infection
- Neurological surgery
- Nicotine and related disorders
- Occupational therapy
- Organ donation
- Organic food
- Orthodontics
- Palliative care
- Photodynamic therapy
- Physical therapy
- Pneumonectomy
- Preparing for surgery
- Prescription drug abuse
- Provenge
- Psychotherapy
- Red reflex testing
- Retropubic suspension
- Sex reassignment surgery
- Sexual abuse
- Sexual addiction
- Single photon emissions computed tomography
- Sleep deprivation
- Sodium
- Speech therapy
- Spirometry
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Stent
- Stereotactic radiosurgery
- Stomachache
- Swollen glands
- Tanning
- Teething
- Trans fatty acids
- Transplant surgery
- Triglycerides
- Umbilical hernia repair
- Undernutrition
- Urinary tract infection
- Vaginismus
- Vascular disease
- Vascular surgery
- Vomiting
- Zellweger syndrome

eBOOK FEATURES

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