

Autism Spectrum Disorder in Smith-Magenis Syndrome

Individuals with Smith-Magenis syndrome often receive diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and high rates of autism have been reported; however, due to differences in methods used by studies, the reported rates of ASD range between 50-93%.

In 2011, Chris Oliver, from the University of Birmingham, reported that approximately 7 out of 10 individuals in their sample of people with Smith-Magenis syndrome scored above the cut off for ASD (approx. 4 out of 10 for autism). The research also showed that rates of ASD were not notably different (i.e. higher or lower) than in other genetic syndromes.

[You can read and download the 2011 paper here](#)

Rates of ASD in Smith-Magenis syndrome may be the result of the intellectual disability associated with the syndrome, rather than a characteristic of the syndrome itself. An ASD diagnosis in Smith-Magenis syndrome may also be due to language abnormalities and repetitive behaviours present, however, these associations are disputed in the literature.