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EXPLORING CONTINUITY BETWEEN SCHIZOID PD AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Pearl Igwe

Mentor: John Constantino

In the second part of a longitudinal study, the Constantino Lab focuses on the continuity between schizoid Personality Disorder (PD) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). We address whether milder ASD syndromes are an antecedent for schizoid PD in adulthood—specifically, whether milder ASD symptoms is an antecedent for schizoid PD in adulthood. In this study, we examine the second wave of data acquired from the schizoid personality disorder section of the DIGS, SAICA and the SRS. The sample consisted of 75 boys ages 7-25 who were either high functioning, verbal males with clinically diagnosed ASD (n=53) or males who were not diagnosed with ASDs (n=22). In the first part of the study, participants and a parent completed the Diagnostic Interview for Genetic Studies (DIGs). A question was considered to be DSM-IV diagnosable if a score of 3 was reported (always true) and ≥ 4 symptoms was needed to be clinically diagnosed with schizoid (a relaxed criterion where a score of 2 or “often true” was used for separate analysis). In the second part, SAICA scores from participants and a parent were taken. The SRS score for each of the participants was also reported. Univariate analysis, correlation tables, regression tables and histograms were performed for between-group and within-group analysis of the participants. The results show that when the relaxed criterion was utilized, 13 out of 53 ASD subjects met full DSM-IV criteria for schizoid-PD and an additional 13 met three out of four criteria required for diagnosis. The results also showed that the elevation in the mean score for schizoid-PD traits was due to a shift in the entire distribution, and not a function of excessive trait burden in a subset of ASD subjects. This study shows that there is some continuity between SRS scores and schizoid PD, and further research exploring this relationship is necessary.