

Putting the Puzzle Together

June 2016 Vol. 6, Issue 5

CLEVELAND CLINIC CENTER FOR AUTISM RESEARCH PROGRAM



"Eye gaze has been known to be different in people with autism since the very first clinical description by Leo Kanner. Our work indicates that this difference can be used to assist clinicians in making a diagnosis. And, ultimately, we think eye gaze measures can be useful for tracking improvement in autism symptoms over time."

Thomas Frazier, II, PhD

Development of an Objective Autism Risk Index Using Remote Eye Tracking

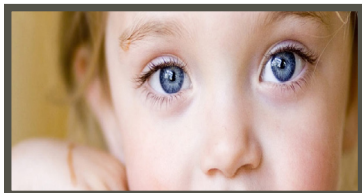
Abnormal eye gaze is a hallmark characteristic of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and numerous studies have identified abnormal attention patterns in ASD. The primary aim of the present study was to create an objective, eye tracking-based autism risk index.

Dr. Thomas Frazier states "Identifying children with autism early is critical to getting them appropriate interventions that will make their lives better". The study results show that there is an excellent potential to enhance identification, and because it is objective, it may increase parents' acceptance of the diagnosis, allowing their children to get treatment faster.

To learn more about this publication please visit: [http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567\(16\)00076-9/abstract](http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567(16)00076-9/abstract)

This study is currently enrolling at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism. The results of the study will be used to determine if this testing is a valid diagnostic tool. Because research is ongoing we are unable provide participants with individual results.

If you are interested in participating in this research please contact Eric Klingemier at 216-448-6392 or Klingee@ccf.org



Cleveland Clinic Children's Center for Autism is expanding its services to Rocky River

The new center — made possible with \$250,000 in funding from the Community West Foundation — is now open and providing outpatient early intervention services to patients with autism. Therapy treatments offered will include occupational therapy, speech/language pathology, and behavioral therapy using the approach of applied behavior analysis (ABA). The 2,000-square-foot space is located on the second floor of the Rocky River's Don Umerley Civic Center.

This community expansion is an important initiative for local families who have a child with autism. Many newly diagnosed children require several hours of therapy each week, and having those therapies close to home reduces significant time spent traveling to appointments. Additionally, Cleveland Clinic Children's is partnering with the City of Rocky River to promote wellness for families attending their appointments. Instead of sitting in a waiting room during their child's appointment, parents are encouraged to spend their time using the Don Umerley Civic Center amenities.

If you are interested in seeking services at the Rocky River location please call 440-895-2020



Safety Information for Summer

Summer is around the corner and beautiful weather is rapidly approaching us. Summer is wonderful, but it also comes with safety issues for children with ASD. Water safety and wandering are two concerns that require extra attention. The Big Red Safety Toolkit is an excellent resource for families and caregivers of children with autism.

For access to the Big Red Safety Toolkit follow this link: <http://nationalautismassociation.org/docs/BigRedSafetyToolkit.pdf>



Current Research Participation Opportunities

A New Phase III Medication Trial is Now Enrolling:

What is the purpose of this study?

To see if the study medication, CM-AT, may help improve symptoms of autism. Researchers will evaluate children using psychological, medical, behavioral, and developmental measures.

What is involved?

The 14-week clinical trial is a FDA-regulated powdered investigational medication which is neutral in taste and is sprinkled on food three times a day.

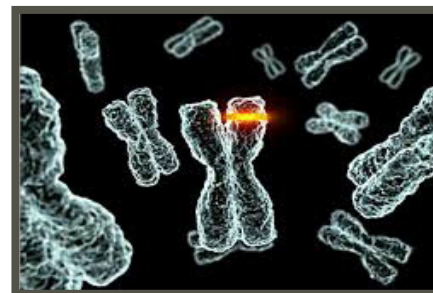
Who can participate?

Participants must be between the ages of 3-8 and have a diagnosis of ASD.

How do I find out more?

Contact our Research Coordinators Mary Beukemann or Emily Zetzer at 216-448-6224, beukemm@ccf.org or zetzero@ccf.org

Natural History Study of Individuals with Autism and PTEN Mutations



The Cleveland Clinic is enrolling participants ages 3-21 in an observational study of PTEN hamartoma tumor syndrome. We are working to gain a better understanding of PTEN mutation syndromes and the relation to autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Participating in this study involves 3 visits to the Cleveland Clinic over the course of 2 years and involves a physical exam, medical history questions, a blood draw, and neuropsychological assessments.

Eligible participants must have either a confirmed PTEN Mutation, with or without a diagnosis of ASD, or a diagnosis of ASD with the presence of macrocephaly (head circumference >98th percentile).

We hope that you will consider speaking with our study coordinator, Emily Zetzer, about the study. She can be reached at Zetzero@ccf.org or 216-448-6682

Upcoming Center for Autism Outreach Workshops:

Introduction to Autism for Grandparents:

Brief overview of autism and applied behavior analysis

Date: June 8, 2016

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

