

Talk Abstract

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Title: Assessment of Anxiety in Angelman Syndrome: Initial Data and Future Goals

Description:

Investigations examining the life course of people with Angelman Syndrome (AS) have consistently identified anxiety as a problem for adolescents and adults. While anxiety has been consistently reported in many studies there is little in the way of descriptions of how anxiety may manifest in individuals with AS as described by families. Barriers to the identification and recognition of anxiety may lead to clinicians underestimating the scope of this problem and its effect on patients and family quality of life.

Within the past two years we have conducted behavioral interviews with 50 children, teens and adults with AS using mixed assessment tools and techniques to identify and describe anxiety. Within this clinically referred population we seek to identify the severity of anxiety and distinguish such challenges from other behavioral and medical symptoms. Moreover, we seek to identify phenomenological similarities that might aid in the formation of an AS specific assessment method for anxiety.

In this talk we will review the structure of our study and we anticipate sharing initial data regarding results on assessment tools of anxiety. We will discuss top priorities for data analyses aimed towards understanding the scope of the problem of anxiety in AS and identifying standardized assessments.