



Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are needed for a research study.

The Kennedy Krieger Institute, the Ohio State University, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are currently accepting children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)*, ages 4.0-12.0 years, for a two-part research study of cholesterol levels in children with ASD. (*ASD includes autism, Asperger's disorder, and pervasive developmental disorder not-otherwise-specified [PDD-NOS]).

In the first phase of the study we will evaluate your child using psychological, psychiatric, medical, biological, behavioral, and developmental measures. We will also test your child's cholesterol levels to study the differences between children with low and high cholesterol. Participation in the first part of the study involves 1 visit.

If your child is found to have low cholesterol he or she may continue on to the second part of the study where we will examine whether a cholesterol supplement improves autism symptoms in children with an ASD and low cholesterol. The second phase of the study involves 6-7 visits over a six-month period, in which your child, if eligible to participate, will receive a powdered cholesterol supplement or a placebo (a powder containing no active cholesterol supplement). A vitamin and mineral supplement will also be provided to your child. Either the cholesterol supplement or placebo, decided by chance, will be given over a twelve-week trial, and then your child will be given the cholesterol supplement for another twelve weeks. The ultimate goal is to determine if the cholesterol supplement improves autism symptoms.

During each visit, you (the parent) will be asked to complete several checklists made up mostly of multiple-choice questions. All evaluations (including diagnosis), study supplement/placebo, and multivitamin will be provided at no cost. For participating in the study, your child will receive a small prize at each visit. We also provide free parking and some reimbursement for travel and time. To be eligible, your child must be in general good health, functioning at an 18-month mental developmental level, and have an Autism Spectrum Disorder. (If your child does not currently have a diagnosis, but is suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder, we will give your child a psychiatric evaluation to determine a diagnosis.)

For more information, and to determine if your child is eligible to participate, please contact:

Elaine Tierney MD, Principal Investigator
Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore MD
443-923-7613
tierneyresearch@kennedykrieger.org

Sandra Conley, Study Coordinator
NIH Clinical Center, Bethesda, MD
301-594-2005
sconley@mail.nih.gov

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