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Course of Development



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positive outcomes tend to be for individuals who develop useful speech in childhood and have an IQ in the normal range (i.e., 70+). Nevertheless, even among this group, some individuals remain highly dependent as adults. A good outcome also depends on the adequacy of intervention and support available during child- and adulthood.

Synonyms

[Adult follow-up studies](#); [Adulthood, transition to](#); [Factors affecting outcome](#); [Natural history](#); [Outcome](#); [Outcome studies](#)

Definition

Autism is a lifelong disorder characterized by core problems in social communication and the presence of stereotyped and repetitive behaviors. However, the manifestation of these problems can change over time. In many cases, the severity of autistic symptoms decreases with age; in others, difficulties may become more evident as individuals grow older. In adolescence and adulthood, many individuals also develop additional mental health problems, particularly related to anxiety and depression.

The course of development is highly variable and often very difficult to predict. The most

See Also

- ▶ [Adult Follow-Up Studies](#)
- ▶ [Adulthood, Transition to](#)
- ▶ [Comprehensive Transition Program](#)
- ▶ [Factors Affecting Outcome](#)
- ▶ [Natural History](#)
- ▶ [Outcome Studies](#)

References and Reading

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