

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder Treatment Options

Autism spectrum disorder starts in early childhood and may last a lifetime. Over time, it can lead to difficulty functioning in society. For instance, individuals with autism spectrum disorder may experience difficulties in being social or in school or at work. Many children with autism develop symptoms somewhere in the first year of life. A few of those affected in that manner present as normal children during the first year.

Then around 18 months to 24 months of age, they may begin to lose some skills and show symptoms of autism. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) treatments in Greater Noida are unique to the individual and frequently include a combination of treatments to improve social, communication, and behavior skills and try to help in daily life and sensory issues. To get the best treatment you should choose the **Best Paediatric Hospital in Greater Noida** that give customized treatment according to needs of the patient.

Get your child the right support for Autism - speak to Felix Hospital's experts today. Call +91 9667064100.

What is Autism

Autism spectrum disorder is a condition related to brain development that affects how people see others and socialize with them. This causes problems in communication and getting along with others socially. The condition also includes limited and repeated

patterns of behavior. The term "spectrum" in autism spectrum disorder refers to the wide range of symptoms and the severity of these symptoms.



Autism spectrum disorder includes conditions that were once thought to be separate — autism, Asperger's syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder and a form of widespread developmental disorder that isn't specified. There is no cure for autism spectrum disorder. But getting treatment early from the **Best Autism Doctor in Greater Noida**, during the preschool years, can make a big difference in the lives of many children with the condition.



Symptoms

Some children show signs of autism spectrum disorder in early infancy, such as less eye contact, not responding to their names or not being interested in caregivers. Other children may not develop as expected for the first few months or years of life. Then they suddenly become withdrawn or aggressive or lose the language skills they had before. Signs usually are seen by ages 2 to 3 years old.

Some people in the mild range on the autism spectrum may have more symptoms that aren't noticed early on. They may not be diagnosed until middle to late childhood, when there is a greater need to communicate and be social. Sometimes a diagnosis is made for the first time in adulthood, though symptoms were likely present during childhood.

Each child with autism spectrum disorder is likely to have a unique pattern of behavior that depends on whether symptoms are mild, moderate or severe.

Some children with autism spectrum disorder have trouble learning, and some have signs of lower intelligence. Other children with the condition usually have high intelligence. These children learn quickly but have trouble communicating, applying what they know in everyday life and adjusting to social situations.

Because each child can have a unique mix of symptoms, sometimes it can be hard to tell how severe the condition is. It's generally based on how severe the symptoms are and how much those symptoms affect a child being able to function.

Below are some common signs shown by people who have autism spectrum disorder.

- Don't respond to their name, or they don't seem to hear at times.
- Don't want to be cuddled or held and prefer to play alone, retreating into their own worlds.
- Have poor eye contact and have no expression on their faces.

- Don't speak or have delayed speech or lose the ability to say words or sentences as they could before.
- Can't start a conversation or keep one going, or only start one to make requests or label items.
- Speak with an unusual tone or rhythm and may use a singsong voice or robotlike speech.
- Repeat words or phrases word for word but don't know how to use them.
- Don't seem to understand simple questions or directions.
- Don't show emotions or feelings and don't seem to be aware of how others feel.
- Don't point at or bring objects to share interest.
- Are passive, aggressive or disruptive when interacting with others.
- Have a hard time figuring out what it means when people have different looks on their faces, position their bodies differently or speak in different tones of voice.

Patterns of behavior

People with autism spectrum disorder may have limited, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities, including a mix of these and other signs:

- Make the same movement over and over again, such as rocking, spinning or handflapping.
- Do activities where they could hurt themselves, such as biting or head-banging.
- Create specific routines or rituals and become upset at even small changes.
- Aren't coordinated and may be clumsy, or they move in patterns that aren't usual.
- Have unusual, stiff or exaggerated body language.
- Are fascinated by details of an object, such as the spinning wheels of a toy car, but they don't know what the object is for or how it works.
- Are sensitive to light, sound or touch but may not be affected by pain or temperature.
- Fixate on an object or activity with unusual intensity or focus.
- Prefer specific foods, such as eating only a few foods or not wanting to eat foods with certain textures.

As they get older, some children with autism spectrum disorder interact more with others and show fewer disturbances in behavior. Some, usually those with the least severe problems, eventually may lead typical or nearly typical lives. But others continue to have trouble with language or social skills. And the teenage years can bring more behavioral and emotional challenges.



When to see a doctor

Babies develop at their own pace, and many don't follow exact timelines found in some parenting books. But children with autism spectrum disorder usually show some signs of delayed development before they're 3 years old. Signs of autism spectrum disorder often appear early in development when there are obvious delays in language skills and social interactions.

If you're concerned about your child's development or think that your child may have autism spectrum disorder, visit the best Autism Specialist Hospital in Greater Noida and talk with a healthcare professional about your concerns. Your healthcare professional may recommend developmental tests to figure out if your child has delays in learning, thinking, language or social skills that point to autism spectrum disorder or another type of developmental condition.

Diagnosis

Your child's healthcare professional looks for signs of developmental delays at regular child checkups. If your child shows any symptoms of autism, you'll likely be referred to a

specialist who treats children with autism spectrum disorder for an evaluation. This specialist could be a child psychiatrist or <u>psychologist</u>, a pediatric neurologist, or a developmental pediatrician.

Because autism spectrum disorder symptoms and how severe they are can vary widely, it may be hard to make a diagnosis. There is no specific medical test to diagnose autism spectrum disorder. Instead, a specialist may:

- Observe your child and ask how your child has developed or changed over time in terms of interacting socially, communicating and behaving.
- Give your child tests covering hearing, speech, language, level of development, and social and behavioral issues.
- Present structured social and communication interactions to your child and score the performance.
- Include other specialists in coming up with a diagnosis.
- Recommend genetic testing to figure out whether your child has a genetic condition such as Rett syndrome or fragile X syndrome.

Treatment

There is no cure for autism spectrum disorder, and there is no one-size-fits-all treatment. Treatment seeks to support your child's learning, development and behavior. Getting treated early, during the preschool years, can help your child learn critical social, communication, functional and behavioral skills. The range of home-based and school-based treatments for autism spectrum disorder can be overwhelming, and your child's needs may change over time. Your healthcare professional can recommend options and help find resources in your area.

If your child is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, talk with experts about creating a treatment strategy and build a team of health professionals to meet your child's needs.



Treatment options may include:

Behavior and communication therapies. Many programs address the range of social, language and behavioral difficulties linked with autism spectrum disorder. Some programs focus on reducing challenging behaviors and teaching new skills. Other programs focus on teaching children how to act in social situations or communicate better with others. Applied behavior analysis can help children learn new skills and adapt these skills to many situations by motivating them with rewards.

Educational therapies: Children with autism spectrum disorder often respond well to highly structured educational programs. Successful programs usually include a team of specialists and various activities to improve social skills, communication and behavior. Preschool children who get intensive, individualized behavioral treatments often show good progress.

Family therapies: Parents and other family members can learn how to play and interact with children who have autism in ways that support social interaction skills, manage challenging behaviors, and teach daily living skills and communication.

Other therapies: Depending on your child's needs, speech therapy to make communication skills better, occupational therapy to teach activities of daily living, and physical therapy to make movement and balance better may help. A psychologist can recommend ways to manage problem behavior.

Medicines: Medicine can't make the core signs of autism spectrum disorder better, but

specific medicines can help control symptoms. For example, certain medicines may be prescribed if your child is hyperactive. Sometimes healthcare professionals prescribe antipsychotic medicines to treat severe behavioral symptoms. Or they may prescribe antidepressants for <u>anxiety</u>. Keep all healthcare professionals updated on any medicines or supplements your child takes. Some medicines and supplements can affect how one medicine acts with another, causing dangerous side effects.

Managing medical and mental health

In addition to autism spectrum disorder, children, teenagers and adults also can have:

Medical health issues. Children with autism spectrum disorder also may have medical issues such as epilepsy, sleep disorders, limited food preferences or stomach problems. Ask your child's healthcare professional how to best manage these conditions together.

Problems with transition to adulthood. Teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorder may have a hard time understanding body changes. Also, social situations become more complex during the teen years, and there may be less tolerance for individual differences. Behavior also may be challenging at this time.

Other mental health conditions. Teens and adults with autism spectrum disorder often have other mental health conditions, such as anxiety disorders; depression; attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder, also known as ADHD; and substance misuse. Your healthcare professional, mental health professional, and community advocacy and service organizations can help.

Behavioral health concerns. In addition to autism spectrum disorder, your child could be irritable or aggressive and may not pay attention. Your child also could be hyperactive, have sudden outbursts or try self-harm. Work with your healthcare professional, mental health professional and other team members to look for a cause, such as pain, distress or frustration, and to manage these challenges if they occur.

Conclusion

Children with <u>autism spectrum disorder</u> usually continue to learn and come up with ways to handle challenges throughout life. But many continue to need some level of support. Planning for your child's future opportunities can make this process smoother.

This includes where to work, go to school and live, and the services required for support, as well as how to be independent and social.

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Call +91 9667064100

Email: helpdesk@felixhospital.com

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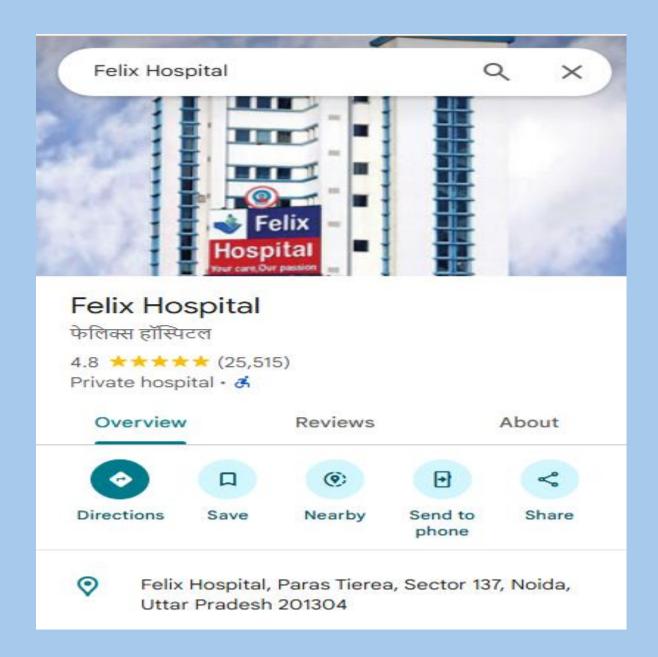
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