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Early detection and early intervention for ASD during life course development: Not only for social-communication problems but also for diverse mental health issues

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Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a heterogeneous syndrome that includes both syndromic autism (to a lesser degree) and idiopathic autism (to a much greater degree), which has diverse manifestations across the life course not only at a group level but also at an individual level. This diversity seems to be common across ethnicities and cultures; that is, ASD may be culture free, although there are no official representative data in Japan at present. Nonetheless, it is essential to consider the socio-cultural context when developing evidenced-based early interventions for ASD and disseminating them to the entire child population with ASD and their families across Japan.

Given this, this presentation will address; 1) enhancement of early detection by complementing the existing community developmental surveillance system with an ASD screening tool; 2) the unmet clinical needs of community toddlers with high autistic symptoms including those relating to sleep, irritability, fear and anxiety, and sensory problems; 3) how early symptoms found at around 2 years of age can predict later psychopathology; 4) the long-term impact of early intervention for individuals with normal IQ ASD. Finally, instead of targeting the entire ASD population, an endophenotype approach is required for translational research. This presentation will also include our findings about sensory hypersensitivity.

References:

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