Autism: The science behind the mysterious affliction that’s become a hot election issue

The answer is hotly debated — scientists even disagree whether it’s on the rise or not. With no agreement on what causes it, writers TOMPAS, doctors disagree on how to treat it.

As soon as doctors identified autism, back in the 1940s, they started to call the condition a "behavioral disorder" with the word "disorder" being removed from the label. A research study in total disorder. "It may be a diagnosis issue. It can take place years earlier than it did in the past."

Wendy Edwards, a southern Ontario pediatrician, doesn't. "I am not convinced that there is a cause," she says. "I think it's a complex phenomenon." Edwards notes that there are signs of brain damage in children who have autism, such as abnormal brain waves on an EEG. She believes that autism is caused by a combination of genes and environmental factors. "We need to find the genetic factors that contribute to autism and understand how they interact with the environment to cause this disorder," she says. Edwards is involved in a large-scale study that is currently underway in Canada to identify genetic markers for autism.

Another child with autism is described as having "autistic features," which means that the child has certain characteristics of autism, such as difficulty with social interactions and communication, but does not meet the full criteria for autism. This child is being treated with a combination of behavioral and medical interventions, including medication to control seizures and other symptoms, and social skills training to help the child interact with others.

One of the main challenges in treating autism is the lack of a cure. While some medical interventions, such as medication for seizures or speech therapy, can improve symptoms, there is no known cure for autism. However, early intervention and support can help children with autism develop the necessary skills to lead a fulfilling life.

In conclusion, autism is a complex and multifaceted disorder that involves a combination of genetic and environmental factors. While there is no cure, early intervention and support can help children with autism develop the skills necessary to lead a fulfilling life.

Doctor says disorder must be seen 'as a medical illness'

BY ROGER COLLIER

Autism Canada Foundation at the University of Ottawa yesterday. Their message: autism is a full-body condition, and not limited to the brain. The "paradigm of autism is changing," said Dr. Edwards. It needs to be viewed as a brain disorder, not just a behavior problem. She also recommended lifestyle changes, such as reducing the use of certain chemicals, to help mitigate the symptoms. Dr. Edwards is a world-renowned autism expert and has been involved in autism research for over a decade. She is also the president of Autism Canada Foundation, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting autism research and providing resources to families of children with autism.

Autistic children have "shared" immunities, said Edwards, which means that viruses and fungi in the stomach cannot be handled by the immune system. This led to inflammation in the digestive tract, and subsequent symptoms of gut and immune system problems. Dr. Edwards said her research points to an immune system disorder that may be linked to autism. She is working to understand the role of the immune system in autism, and how it can be treated.

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