

The Effects of Maternal Autoimmune Dysregulation on Autism Spectrum Disorder Associated  
Behaviors in Offspring

Gabby Boadi

Juan M. Alarcon

4/12/2024

Autism affects about 67 million people worldwide and is most common in children.

Autism is a developmental disorder that is characterized by various behaviors. Typical behaviors include deficits in social behaviors, repetitive behaviors, motor deficits, etc. No cure has been found for autism, which has led to extensive research on what could be the reason for developing autism. One hypothesis is the possible link between autoimmune diseases such as lupus and autism. Lupus affects more than five million people worldwide. Lupus occurs when your body's immune system attacks your tissues and organs. Our immune system is a network of cells, tissues, and organs that help the body fight against infection and other diseases. When the immune system faces a disease or illness, it develops a defense mechanism known as antibodies, which protect unwanted substances. Lupus is characterized by autoantibodies, which are misguided antibodies and can attack your body's cells, tissues, and organs. A study was conducted where autoantibodies were extracted from a pregnant female, and researchers injected the autoantibodies into pregnant mice. This link continues to be studied and is one proposition for what could be happening in the autistic brain.