Αυτισμός και περιβαλλοντικοί παράγοντες

Autism and environmental factors

της

Τσοπανίδου Βαρβάρας – Βασιλικής

Μεταπτυχιακή διατριβή που υποβάλλεται
στην τριμελή επιτροπή για την απόκτηση του μεταπτυχιακού τίτλου του Προγράμματος Μεταπτυχιακών Σπουδών Εξειδίκευσης
του Τ.Ε.Φ-Δ.Π.Θ. σε συνεργασία με το Ε.Κ.Ε.Φ.Ε. Δημόκριτος – Ινστιτούτο Πληροφορικής και Επικοινωνιών
με τίτλο: «Εξειδίκευση στις Τ.Π.Ε. και Ειδική Αγωγή – Ψυχοπαιδαγωγική της ένταξης»

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ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Ο αυτισμός είναι μια πολύπλοκη αναπτυξιακή διαταραχή και χαρακτηρίζεται από ελλείμματα στις κοινωνικές δεξιότητες και στην συμπεριφορά. Όσον αφορά την αιτιολογία, δεν υπάρχει μια μεμονωμένη αιτία αλλά πολλές θεωρίες που προσπαθούν να εξηγήσουν την εμφάνιση του αυτισμού. Τα αίτια αυτά θα μπορούσαν να πάρουν πολλές μορφές, όπως ελαττωματικά γονίδια, χρωμοσωματικές ανωμαλίες, μεταβολικές διαταραχές, μολυσματικοί ιοί. Το κάθε πιθανό αίτιο θα μπορούσε να επηρεάσει το ζωτικό σύστημα που εμπλέκεται στον αυτισμό, είτε επηρεάζει είτε όχι άλλα συστήματα (Frith, 1994). Οι εξελίξεις στη γενετική εντοπίζουν τη σχέση μεταξύ γονιδίων και αυτισμού, ενώ παράλληλα ερευνάται αν η έκθεση σε χημικές ουσίες «ενισχύει» την αυτιστική συμπεριφορά. Μια έμμεση απόδειξη για την «πυροδότηση» μιας αυτιστικής συμπεριφοράς εξαιτίας της έκθεσης σε χημικές ουσίες προέρχεται από μελέτες που αποδεικνύουν την ευαισθησία του οργανισμού σε ουσίες όπως ο μόλυβδος, η αιθυλική αλκοόλη και το μεθυλικό υδράργυρο (Landrigan, 2010). Η εργασία αυτή έχει ως στόχο να παρουσιάσει και να εκθέσει έρευνες και μελέτες, μέσα από την βιβλιογραφική ανασκόπηση, που αφορούν τους περιβαλλοντικούς παράγοντες που είτε επηρεάζουν είτε όχι την εκδήλωση του αυτισμού.

ABSTRACT

Autism is a complex developmental disorder and is characterized by deficits in social skills and behavior. Regarding the aetiology, there is no single cause but many theories that try to explain the appearance of autism. These causes could take many forms, such as defective genes, chromosomal abnormalities, metabolic disorders, infectious viruses. Any possible cause could affect the vital system involved in autism, whether or not it affects other systems (Frith, 1994). Developments in genetics identify the relationship between genes and autism, while exploring whether exposure to chemicals "enhances" autistic behavior. An indirect demonstration of "triggering" an autistic behavior due to exposure to chemicals stems from studies demonstrating the body's sensitivity to substances such as lead, ethyl alcohol and methyl mercury (Landrigan, 2010). This paper aims to present and expose research and studies, through the bibliographic review, on the environmental factors that affect or not affect the manifestation of autism.

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