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**ORGANIC CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS AND AUTISM**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Autism spectrum disorder is described as a neurodevelopmental disorder. In the last 30 years we have seen a large increase in autism diagnoses. According to recent data, up to 40-50% of the factors that may be involved in the etiology of the autism spectrum can be attributed to environmental factors. Children today are at risk of exposure to about 3.000 synthetic chemicals, produced each in quantities of more than 500 tons per year, and are called high-volume chemicals. These chemicals can be found in a wide range of consumer goods. This review examines the possible association between organic chemical compounds, with which almost all people come into daily contact, and autism spectrum disorder, as well as possible mechanisms by which these organic chemicals may influence the onset of the disorder. More specifically, organic chemicals contained in pesticides, air pollutants, volatile organic compounds/solvents, non-persistent organic pollutants, persistent organic pollutants, smoking, food, drugs and perfumes are examined. The exact etiology of autism spectrum disorder remains unknown to this day. Literature has implicated several environmental factors associated with the development of autism spectrum disorder. These factors include a number of organic chemicals which, while often classified as dangerous toxics, are contained in everyday products. Further research is needed to clarify the association between hazardous organic chemicals and autism spectrum disorder.

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