

Abstract

Autism (ASD) is a severe pervasive neurodevelopmental disorder with an as yet unclear etiology but increasing incidence. Early diagnosis and early initiation of therapy are crucial to the success of its treatment and to improving the quality of life of individuals with PAS. The identification of biomarkers in the form of specific facial features of individuals with autism can contribute significantly to facilitating diagnosis. These facial dysmorphologies have their basis in the prenatal period as a consequence of the common and interacting embryogenesis of the face and brain and reflect the neurodevelopmental basis of autism. Using special anthropometric methods, specific facial phenotypes can be determined, which can also be used to classify individuals with PAS into groups according to the severity of the disorder.

Key words:

Autism, facial dysmorphology, ASD, biomarkers, anthropometry