

PARENT RATINGS OF BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF BIOMEDICAL INTERVENTIONS

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The parents of autistic children represent a vast and important reservoir of information on the benefits—and adverse effects—of the large variety of drugs and other interventions that have been tried with their children. Since 1967 the Autism Research Institute has been collecting parent ratings of the usefulness of the many interventions tried on their autistic children.

The following data have been collected from the more than 21,500 parents who have completed our questionnaires designed to collect such information. For the purposes of the present table, the parents responses on a six-point scale have been combined into three categories: “made worse” (ratings 1 and 2), “no effect” (ratings 3 and 4), and “made better” (ratings 5 and 6). The “Better:Worse” column gives the number of children who “Got Better” for each one who “Got Worse.”

Note: For seizure drugs: The first line shows the drug’s behavioral effects; the second line shows the drug’s effects on seizures.

<u>Parent Ratings</u>						<u>Parent Ratings</u>						<u>Parent Ratings</u>					
<u>DRUGS</u>	<u>Got Worse^A</u>	<u>No Effect</u>	<u>Got Better</u>	<u>Better: Worse</u>	<u>No. of Cases^B</u>	<u>DRUGS</u>	<u>Got Worse^A</u>	<u>No Effect</u>	<u>Got Better</u>	<u>Better: Worse</u>	<u>No. of Cases^B</u>	<u>DRUGS</u>	<u>Got Worse^A</u>	<u>No Effect</u>	<u>Got Better</u>	<u>Better: Worse</u>	<u>No. of Cases^B</u>
Aderall	39%	28%	34%	0.9:1	285	Desipramine	38%	25%	38%	1.0:1	61	<u>Phenobarb.</u>					
Amphetamine	47%	28%	25%	0.5:1	1174	<u>Dilantin</u>						<u>Behavior</u>	47%	37%	16%	0.3:1	1052
Anafranil	31%	37%	31%	1.0:1	351	<u>Behavior</u>	28%	48%	24%	0.9:1	1049	<u>Seizures</u>	17%	43%	40%	2.4:1	458
Antibiotics	30%	59%	11%	0.4:1	1617	<u>Seizures</u>	14%	36%	51%	3.8:1	377	Prolixin	34%	34%	33%	1.0:1	83
<u>Antifungals^C</u>						Felbatol	26%	45%	29%	1.1:1	38	Prozac	31%	33%	36%	1.2:1	975
Diflucan	7%	42%	51%	7.2:1	185	Fenfluramine	21%	51%	28%	1.4:1	453	Risperidal	19%	28%	53%	2.8:1	401
Nystatin	5%	48%	47%	10:1	727	Halcion	37%	30%	33%	0.9:1	43	Ritalin	44%	26%	29%	0.7:1	3540
Atarax	26%	53%	21%	0.8:1	443	Haldol	37%	27%	35%	0.9:1	1119	<u>Secretin</u>					
Benadryl	24%	51%	25%	1.1:1	2512	IVIG	13%	45%	42%	3.2:1	31	<u>Intravenous</u>	8%	43%	49%	6.2:1	217
Beta Blocker	18%	49%	33%	1.8:1	236	<u>Klonopin</u>						<u>Transderm.</u>	12%	47%	41%	3.6:1	78
Buspar	26%	45%	30%	1.2:1	281	<u>Behavior</u>	28%	33%	38%	1.4:1	156	Stelazine	28%	44%	27%	1.0:1	415
Chloral						<u>Seizures</u>	38%	50%	12%	0.3:1	26	<u>Tegretol</u>					
Hydrate	41%	37%	22%	0.5:1	375	Lithium	27%	42%	31%	1.1:1	384	<u>Behavior</u>	24%	45%	31%	1.3:1	1345
Clonidine	21%	31%	48%	2.2:1	1090	Luvox	28%	36%	37%	1.3:1	120	<u>Seizures</u>	12%	33%	55%	4.5:1	721
Clozapine	44%	39%	16%	0.4:1	79	Mellaril	28%	38%	33%	1.2:1	2023	Thorazine	36%	40%	24%	0.7:1	897
Cogentin	19%	53%	28%	1.4:1	149	<u>Mysoline</u>						Tofranil	30%	37%	33%	1.1:1	698
Cylert	45%	35%	21%	0.5:1	580	<u>Behavior</u>	44%	40%	15%	0.3:1	131	Valium	36%	41%	23%	0.7:1	788
Deanol	15%	55%	29%	1.9:1	195	<u>Seizures</u>	19%	58%	23%	1.2:1	57	<u>Zarontin</u>					
<u>Depakene</u>						Naltrexone	22%	46%	32%	1.5:1	200	<u>Behavior</u>	34%	43%	22%	0.7:1	129
<u>Behavior</u>	25%	43%	32%	1.3:1	871	Paxil	27%	28%	45%	1.7:1	192	<u>Seizures</u>	21%	51%	29%	1.4:1	87
<u>Seizures</u>	12%	30%	57%	4.6:1	569	Phenergan	30%	44%	26%	0.9:1	244	Zoloft	33%	31%	36%	1.1:1	212

<u>BIOMEDICAL/</u>	<u>Parent Ratings</u>					<u>BIOMEDICAL/</u>	<u>Parent Ratings</u>				
<u>NON-DRUG/</u>	<u>Got Worse^A</u>	<u>No Effect</u>	<u>Got Better</u>	<u>Better: Worse</u>	<u>No. of Cases^B</u>	<u>NON-DRUG/</u>	<u>Got Worse^A</u>	<u>No Effect</u>	<u>Got Better</u>	<u>Better: Worse</u>	<u>No. of Cases^B</u>
<u>SUPPLEMENTS</u>						<u>SUPPLEMENTS</u>					
Vitamin A	2%	59%	39%	22:1	334	Vitamin B3	5%	55%	41%	9.0:1	487
Calcium ^D	2%	62%	35%	14:1	988	Vit. B6 alone	7%	64%	29%	4.1:1	590
Cod Liver Oil	3%	51%	46%	14:1	411	Vit. B6/Mag.	4%	49%	46%	11:1	5079
Colostrum	6%	58%	37%	6.7:1	163	Vitamin C	2%	59%	39%	16:1	1306
Detox. (Chelation)	3%	28%	70%	27:1	116	Zinc	3%	55%	43%	17:1	835
Digestive Enzymes	4%	44%	52%	14:1	314	<u>SPECIAL DIETS</u>					
DMG	7%	51%	42%	5.9:1	4547	Candida Diet	3%	45%	52%	18:1	605
Fatty Acids	4%	44%	51%	12:1	299	Feingold Diet	2%	47%	51%	23:1	645
5 HTP	11%	55%	35%	3.3:1	66	Gluten-/Casein-Free Diet	4%	33%	64%	18:1	724
Folic Acid	4%	55%	41%	11:1	1100	Removed					
Food Allergy Trtmnt	4%	37%	59%	14:1	290	Chocolate	1%	50%	49%	36:1	1491
Magnesium	6%	65%	29%	5.2:1	288	Removed Eggs	2%	61%	37%	21:1	882
Melatonin ^E	10%	33%	57%	5.9:1	302	Removed Milk					
Pepcid	9%	61%	30%	3.2:1	64	Products/Dairy	2%	51%	48%	30:1	4950
SAME	25%	46%	29%	1.1:1	28	Removed Sugar	2%	51%	47%	24:1	3392
St. Johns Wort	11%	67%	22%	2.0:1	46	Removed Wheat	2%	53%	46%	26:1	2701
TMG	14%	42%	44%	3.1:1	182	Rotation Diet	2%	50%	47%	20:1	678
Transfer Factor	18%	51%	31%	1.7	39						

A. “Worse” refers only to worse behavior. Drugs, but not nutrients, typically also cause physical problems if used long-term.

B. No. of cases is cumulative over several decades, so does not reflect current usage levels (e.g., Haldol is now seldom used).

C. Antifungal drugs are used only if autism is thought to be yeast-related.

D. Calcium effects are not due to dairy-free diet; statistics are similar for milk drinkers and non-milk drinkers.

E. Caution: While melatonin can benefit sleep and behavior, its long-term effects on puberty are unknown.