

Cholesterol Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Technology description

Value Proposition:

While there is no known single cause for autism, Inventors have determined that a population of patients with ASD that is not associated with Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome has plasma sterol levels that are outside the typical range. Preliminary studies by the Inventors suggest that optimizing plasma sterol levels has a beneficial effect on social interactions, verbal and non-verbal communication. This concept can be developed into a treatment method for a subpopulation of patients with ASD by optimizing plasma sterol levels. A clinical trial is in progress.

Autism is a complex developmental disability caused by neurological issues. It affects 1 in every 150 American children, and almost 1 in 94 boys. Autism is a spectrum disorder that affects each individual differently and at varying degrees. Both children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) show difficulties in social interactions, verbal and non-verbal communication, and play activities. There is an unmet medical need for ways to improve development in social interaction and communication skills.

Advantages

- Treatment method supplements a measurable deficit in serum sterol levels in a population of patients with Autism Spectrum Disorders that is not associated with Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome and can increase social, verbal and non-verbal behaviors for improved quality of life in patients and their families.
- Therapeutic dietary supplement could potentially be developed with a variety of textures and flavors in order to increase compliance in a patient population with heightened sensitivities to food and drink.

Institution

[Johns Hopkins University](#)

Inventors

[Elaine Tierney](#)

Kennedy Krieger Institute

Forbes Porter

Senior Investigator

Outside

联系我们



叶先生

电 话 : 021-65679356

手 机 : 13414935137

邮 箱 : yeyingsheng@zf-ym.com