

**A comprehensive mixed-longitudinal study of growth in boys with Autistic Disorder**

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**Summary:**

To date there has been little systematic effort made to characterize the developmental anatomic phenotype of autism. While there is evidence of increased head circumference and brain size, few other physical characteristics of individuals with autism have been studied. Thus we aim to systematically chart the physical growth of these individuals from birth to adulthood.

A preliminary study using infant Maternal and Child Health records has indicated a higher growth rate in body length/height in children with high-functioning autism and Asperger's disorder during the first three years of life. These preliminary results indicate that growth dysregulation in autism is not specific to the brain but also involves growth in stature.

Expected start and completion dates: 2009 – 2011

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