

Do childmolesters have autistic features

Published: 09-02-2010

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The present study will test 1) whether childmolesters (including childpornography downloaders) show ASD symptoms, like disturbances in recognizing other*s emotions, feelings, intentions and thoughts, lack of interpersonal skills empathy deficits and...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruiting
Health condition type	Personality disorders and disturbances in behaviour
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON39815

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Childmolesters and autism

Condition

- Personality disorders and disturbances in behaviour

Synonym

autism, PDD-NOS

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: autism, Childmolesters, childpornography offenders

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Relation between childmolestation and traits of autism spectrum disorder (based on emotion recognition, empathy deficits, interpersonal skills, sexual experience and sexual fantasies). Relation between cognitive distorted thinking (outcome of measurement *I want sex* versus *the child wants sex*) and deficits in emotion recognition and empathy in childmolesters.

Secondary outcome

The relation between traits of autism spectrum disorder and deviant sexual fantasies and problems in sexual experience

Study description

Background summary

Child molesters have deficits (like difficulties with emotion recognition and empathy) that are also seen among patients with Autism or Asperger disorder. Studies have found that adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) often show some sexual deviant behaviour. If childmolesters indeed resemble individuals with Autism, we may learn from therapies developed for individuals with Autism to improve treatment for child molesters.

Study objective

The present study will test 1) whether childmolesters (including childpornography downloaders) show ASD symptoms, like disturbances in recognizing other's emotions, feelings, intentions and thoughts, lack of interpersonal skills empathy deficits and deviant sexual fantasies; 2) whether different types of childmolesters (hands-on versus hands-off) differ in their cognitive distorted thinking, and 3) whether cognitive distorted thinking among childmolesters is related to deficits in emotion recognition and empathy. A secondary question is whether individuals who score high on characteristics related to autism, show deviant sexual fantasies and problems in their sexual experience.

Study design

The study has a cross-sectional design. Participants will individually complete two computer tasks and five questionnaires at one moment in time. This will take 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Study burden and risks

Subjects have no immediate benefit by participating in this study other than the monetary reward (€15). There are no risks involved in this study. The only disadvantage is the time it takes to fill in the questionnaires.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Male, at least 18 years of age

Exclusion criteria

insufficient comprehension of the Dutch language

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Diagnostic

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	01-03-2010
Enrollment:	150
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	09-02-2010
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL30364.078.09