



King's Research Portal

DOI: 10.1089/aut.2021.0041

Document Version Peer reviewed version

Link to publication record in King's Research Portal

Citation for published version (APA):

Mason, D., Stewart, G. R., Capp, S. J., & Happé, F. (2022). Older Age Autism Research: A Rapidly Growing Field, but Still a Long Way to Go. *Autism in Adulthood*, 4(2), 164-172. https://doi.org/10.1089/aut.2021.0041

Please note that where the full-text provided on King's Research Portal is the Author Accepted Manuscript or Post-Print version this may differ from the final Published version. If citing, it is advised that you check and use the publisher's definitive version for pagination, volume/issue, and date of publication details. And where the final published version is provided on the Research Portal, if citing you are again advised to check the publisher's website for any subsequent corrections.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the Research Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognize and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- •Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- •You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain •You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the Research Portal

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact librarypure@kcl.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Download date: 21. Oct. 2024

TITLE: Older Age Autism Research: A rapidly growing field, but still a long way to go
RUNNING TITLE: TRENDS IN OLDER AGE AUTISM RESEARCH

David Mason*a, Gavin Robert Stewart*a, Simone Josephine Cappa, Francesca Happéa

*Joint first authors

Affiliations: ^a Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF, UK.

Corresponding authors: David Mason, david.3.mason@kcl.ac.uk, Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry

Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, De Crespigny Park, Denmark

Hill, London SE5 8AF, UK

Gavin R. Stewart, gavin.stewart@kcl.ac.uk, Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF, UK

Keywords: older age, aging, autism, autistic people

Abstract

Background There is a paucity of research involving older autistic people, as highlighted in a number of systematic

reviews. However, it is less clear whether this is changing, and what the trends might be in research on autism in later

life.

Method We conducted a broad review of the literature by examining the number of results from a search in three

databases (PubMed, Embase, PsychINFO) across four age groups: childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and older

age. We also examined the abstracts of all the included papers for the older age group and categorised them under

broad themes.

Results Our database search identified 145 unique papers on autism in older age, with an additional 67 found by the

authors (hence, the total number of papers in this review is 212). Since 2012, we found a 392% increase in research

with older autistic people, versus 196% increase for childhood/early life, 253% for adolescence, and 264% for adult

research. We identify 2012 as a point at which, year-on-year, older age autism research started increasing, with the

most commonly researched areas being cognition, the brain, and genetics. However, older adult research only

accounted for 0.4% of published autism studies over the past decade.

Conclusion This increase reflects a positive change in the research landscape, although research with children

continues to dominate. We also note the difficulty of identifying papers relevant to older age autism research, and

propose that a new keyword could be created to increase the visibility and accessibility of research in this steadily

growing area.

Keywords: older age, aging, autism, autistic people

Community Brief

Why is this topic important?

Autistic children grow into autistic adults, and autistic adults grow old. However, there is very little research about older autistic people. This is important so we know how to support older autistic people.

What is the purpose of this article?

We wanted to examine how autism research activity has changed over time with respect to four life stages: infancy, childhood and adolescence, adulthood, and older age. We then more closely looked at older age autism research to point out important gaps where more research is needed.

What did the authors do?

We conducted a broad review of the literature on autism and described what life stages are studied in published research. We looked at how the amount of research on different life stages has changed over time. We further examined studies focused on older age and summarized the topics covered. What did you find about this topic?

Our review estimates only 0.4% of autism-related publications over the past decade are about older autistic people. We identify 2012 as a turning point, since when the number of studies has markedly increased year-on-year. Encouragingly, the percentage increase in autism research over the past decade is greater for older age research (392% rise) than childhood/early life (196%), adolescence (253%), or adulthood research (264%).

What do the authors recommend?

We suggest that there are many research areas that need addressing. Specifically, more research is needed on social isolation and the practicalities of living arrangements for older autistic people, as well as more studies including older autistic adults with intellectual disability.

How will these findings help autistic adults now or in the future?

We do not think our findings will immediately benefit the lives of autistic people. However, we do hope to draw attention to topics where research is needed to improve the lives of autistic older people. We also suggest that a new keyword could be created that researchers could include in their papers to help autistic people and those interested in autism and aging find relevant writings.

Introduction

"Although much [research] is carried out with respect to young individuals with ASD, there is an urgent need to address the needs of the current population of older individuals with ASD". Mukaetova-Ladinska et al's 2012 paper drew attention to the scarcity of aging research with older autistic people after examining the literature between 1946

and 2011. In the intervening years what has changed in this respect? We decided to mark another decade in autism research by re-examining this question.

Several reviews have pointed out the dearth of research with older autistic participants.^{2–5} In America, as of 2019, approximately 35.5% of the population (c.117.0 million people⁶) were aged 50 years or older¹, and the proportion is similar in the United Kingdom (37.7%, c.25.2 million people⁷). A UK population survey reported an autism prevalence of around 1% in adults⁸, suggesting that there could be many millions of people aged over 50 who would meet diagnostic criteria, although most are not diagnosed (the "lost generation"⁹). Clearly, it is a pressing concern to identify the state of autism research with older samples of autistic adults.

Research attention is slowly encompassing older autistic people, but as yet, there is no evidence to show how quickly interest in this area is growing. Thus, the aim of this perspective is to track the rates of autism publications, indexed in three databases. We update the search strategy of Mukaetova-Ladinska and colleagues (described in Figure 1 of that paper) to assess, in 2021, how autism research is distributed across the age categories of childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and older age. Moreover, we identify the rate of publication of autism research with older autistic participants. Finally, we draw attention to broad categories of the search records according to the topic of each study (e.g., cognitive, genetic, etc.). Whilst previous aging reviews have tended to be systematic, we opted for a broad review of the literature to gain an overview of the state of autism aging research and trends over time. This enabled us to chart how publication trends have changed over time, and provide a qualitative schema for organising older autism research.

Positionality

One of the first authors, DM, is a late-diagnosed autistic adult, with a Bachelor's degree in Health, and a Master's degree in Psychology. Currently, DM is completing a PhD to examine issues of outcome and quality of life for older autistic people. DM's research interests are the quality of life of autistic people and aging as an autistic person. GRS has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's degree in Genes, Environment and Development in Psychology and Psychiatry (GEDPP), and a PhD on ageing and autism. His research interests focus on the health, wellbeing, and cognition of middle-aged and older autistic (and high autistic trait) adults. SJC has a Bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology, a Master's degree in GEDPP, and is currently undertaking a PhD. Her PhD and research interests focus on mental health and quality of life in autistic adults with a particular emphasis on how these outcomes might be different for other neurodivergent adults (e.g. ADHD) or those who are neurodivergent in multiple ways (e.g. Autistic with ADHD). FH has worked in autism research for over 30 years, following an undergraduate degree in Experimental Psychology and a PhD on autism. She is the primary PhD supervisor for DM, GRS and SJC. All the

¹ We selected 50 years here because it has been reported that cognitive aging can be observed at this age in several domains. ⁴⁷

authors share a neurodiversity perspective that recognises that the different way in which autistic people process the world can be disabling in a society designed by and for non-autistic people.

Method

Search strategy

First, we designed a search based on Mukaetova-Ladinska et al's (2012) search strategy. We opted to search not only Pubmed, as Mukaetova-Ladinska and colleagues did, but also Embase and PsychINFO to capture as broad a range of research topics as possible. All searches (childhood & early life, adolescence, adulthood, and older age) for each of the three databases (Pubmed, PsychInfo, Embase) were exported to Endnote² and results were deduplicated. Both first authors created an a-priori set of themes to use to code each study based on common research topics in the autism and ageing literatures. These themes were then refined and finalised through group discussions with the third and fourth authors. Each first author then independently coded the abstracts according to the themes. Once initial coding was completed, these authors discussed the coded abstracts to reach 100% agreement.

Our first strategy replicated Mukaetova-Ladinska and colleagues' initial search terms, plus some additional terms. The autism terms were autism*, autism spectrum disorder, autistic*, autistic disorder, autistic symptoms, Asperger*, and PDD-NOS. The aging terms varied by age group. We used terms for: 1) infancy (toddler, infant, infancy) and childhood (child*, children); 2) adolescence (adolescence, adolescent*, teen*); 3) adulthood (adult*, young adult*); and 4) older age (old age*, older age, older adult, elder*, senior, late* adulthood). See Supplementary Material 1 for a comparison between the present search terms, and the search terms used by Mukatova-Ladinska et al. See Supplementary Material 2 for an example search strategy using AND/OR terms. Searches were restricted to the title and abstract only.

This initial search strategy brought numerous false positive results in the older age search; for example, including the search term "senior" returned abstracts about "high school seniors", or "senior management". As we wanted to maximise true positive hits but minimise these false positives, we refined our search strategy. To do so, we used the same approach as above, but added the following terms (using the NOT function); child*, infan*, youth, school, senior manag*. The NOT function aims to exclude irrelevant hits (and when combined with the '*' wildcard, to exclude permutations of irrelevant hits); the aim of this was to exclude false positives such as "older children". This is referred to as our "stringent search" below.

² We did this for each of the age-band searches. However, we only thematically coded the results for the older age group, as this was an aim of the paper.

To ensure the completeness of our search, we identified review papers that our search strategy retrieved, and checked the reference list for any relevant papers. In this way, and based on our own knowledge of the literature, we added in any papers that were relevant but not returned by the search strategy.

Finally, abstracts from the stringent older adult search were categorized into an a-priori set of research topics. DM and GRS coded the abstracts individually, and then agreed on the final categorization. These research topics were derived from common autism research areas and the authors' knowledge of the literature. Abstracts were deemed relevant and given a category if they included a clear reference to autism in older age or included autistic people aged 50 years and older. An irrelevant category was created to account for abstracts that included no reference to autism in older age. Abstracts with multiple themes were coded into their primary topic area. See Supplementary Material 3 for the abstract screening flow diagram.

Results

A final total of 212 unique papers were identified by our stringent older adult search criteria. The database search yielded a total of 145 unique papers across the three search engines used, with an additional 67 papers being added by the authors after checking reference lists of relevant review articles and/or based on their knowledge of the literature (see Figure 1 for a full breakdown of the search strategy for each age group). Table 1 shows the number of results by database and age group. Figure 2 shows the average database N of results, by age group, published before and after 2012 for the stringent search strategy. See Supplementary Material 3 for full database N breakdown.

[Table 1 about here]

[Figure 1 about here]

Is there a trend over time?

We identified a sharp increase in the number of autism-related publications since 2010. Specifically, for autism older age papers, we found that the number of publications rose from an average of 1 paper per year in the years prior to 2012 (i.e., before Mukaetova-Ladinska et al's review), to an average of 14 papers per year over the 9 years since. When comparing the average number of papers on older adults identified in our stringent search of the three databases (N=187) papers, a total of 136 were published in, or after, 2012. See Figure 2 for a visualisation of this trend. When considering the percentage increase in the number of publications since 2012 (averaged across the three databases in the search), childhood and early life research has increased by 196%, with a 253% increase for adolescence research, 264% for adult research, and finally 392% older age research (identified through the stringent search). Yet, despite an almost four-fold increase, the older age research (identified through the stringent search) only accounts for 0.4% of the new publications since 2012, with childhood and early life research accounting for 67%, 13% by adolescence research, and 20% by adulthood research. Finally, we examined the changes in number of

publications per year, for each age band (childhood adolescence, adulthood, and stringent older age search). The trend is depicted in Figure 3. We can see a steady increase in abstracts for each age band across time (the increase in older age is obscured by the scale of the graph – see inset panel of Figure 3). Encouragingly, 2010 seems to mark an increase in older age autism research, with around four times as many publications in 2020 as in 2010.

[Figure 2 about here]

[Figure 3 about here]

What research is being conducted with older autistic adults?

Table 2 shows the number of papers found that fell into our different topic categories. Studies that examine general health (N=17, 8.0% of all papers in the stringent search), genetics/molecular aspects (N=16, 7.5%), and cognition (N=15, 7.1%) were most common. A large number of review articles was also found (N=16, 7.5%). Several studies examined autistic traits (N=11, 5.2%), with slightly fewer focusing on support needs (N=9, 4.2%) or quality of life (N=8, 3.8%). Few studies examined sensory processing (N=5, 2.4%). We also have a miscellaneous category of studies that could not readily be assimilated into the a-priori themes (N=9, 4.2%)., including for example a paper exploring age-related differences in restrictive repetitive behaviours, as well as case study accounts. Our study identified a number of first-person accounts and community-member advocacy writings (e.g. Michael, 2016) which we coded into the Letter to the Editor section (N=6, 2.8%). We also identified a number of qualitative papers; however, rather than list these as a discrete category (with diverse coverage) we listed them in the relevant category by topic (e.g. Hickey et al., 2018 is listed under support services). Finally, we did have a large irrelevant category, which included papers with no clear reference to autism in older age, such as papers related to advanced parental age and autism, criminal justice and mental health, and non-autistic older adult health and cognition (N=68, 32.1%). Please see Supplementary Material 4 for a full list of the papers within each category of Table 2.

[Table 2 about here]

A note on keywords

Our search demonstrated how hard it is to specifically locate research papers on autism and aging. As indicated above, our initial search strategy included a large number of false positives that were clearly irrelevant. We refined the search strategy to try and remove some of those false positives, yet still a large number of irrelevant papers were retrieved. We examined the use of keywords in the 145 unique paper abstracts returned by the stringent search that were categorised as relevant. A total of 60 abstracts did not have keywords indexed by the search engine. The remaining 85 used a wide range of keywords. There were nine unique references to autism: 'Autism Spectrum Disorder(s)', 'Autistic Spectrum Disorder' and 'ASD' (n=48); 'Autism' (n=25); 'Broad Autism Phenotype' or 'BAP' (n=12); 'Autism traits' (n=3); 'neurodevelopmental disorder' (n=3); and 'autistic identity' (n=1). Eighteen unique age-

related terms were used. The most common were 'aging' or 'ageing' (n=43); 'older adult(s)' and 'old(er) age' (n=19); 'adult(s)' and 'adulthood' (n=29); and 'elderly' (n=10). The remaining eight terms were keywords used in only one paper, e.g. 'geriatric psychiatry', 'late diagnosis', 'aged', and 'age trends'. The final three terms were not older-age specific, e.g. 'adolescence' and 'early life'.

Discussion

The present study sought to identify the trends in research with older autistic participants. We found that almost four times as many papers were published in the nine years since 2012, compared to all the years preceding 2012. Second, and consistent with this, the rate of publications on older autistic people has sharply increased since 2012. Despite this encouraging increase, autistic children are still the focus of the majority of research papers, with older age research accounting for less than 1% of all publications over the past decade.

Our categorisation of the autism aging abstracts returned by our review suggests that the focus of research thus far has been on factors about the autistic person, and less about their context or wider needs. For example, the majority of studies focused on socio-cognitive factors^{e.g. 11}, physical^{e.g. 12} or mental health^{e.g. 13,14} conditions, brain imaging ^{e.g. 15}, and genetics.^{e.g. 16} Quality of life (QOL) has been identified as an important outcome for autistic people¹⁷; and we identified a number of studies that focused on QOL in older adults.^{18,19} For reasons of space, we are unable to explore more thoroughly the content of the included studies, and we direct interested readers to a recent review which comprehensively examined the characteristics of samples used in older autism research and explores the areas of research covered (which are consistent with what we present here; Tse et al., 2021).

A final interesting finding was the scant number of papers taking a dimensional or trait-wise approach with samples of older people^{20–28}. Given the accumulating evidence that autistic traits are continuously distributed in the population^{e.g. 29–31} and share genetic influences with diagnosed autism³², extending dimensional research approaches into older age could offer promising insights. Those who endorse higher autistic traits show similar difficulties to diagnosed autistic adults in understanding social situations²⁷, and mental health³³. Indeed, in the general population, elevated autistic traits at age 45 are associated with poorer health and faster aging (even controlling for sex, childhood IQ and childhood SES³⁴). Given the difficulties of diagnosing autism in the elderly³⁵ and likely underdiagnosis in older adults, research with high-trait individuals may help with testing supports or interventions for older, diagnosed, autistic people. Of course, any such interventions would need to be co-designed through participatory autism research methods³⁶.

Research agenda

From our survey of the literature, there was little consideration, if any, of the practicalities that older autistic people face. For example, what should accommodation (e.g. residential care) look like for older autistic people?³⁷ Given the often-precarious living arrangements of autistic people³⁸, this is a pressing concern. Moreover, studies with younger samples have identified difficulties in forming social networks³⁹; this is also a vital question for older autistic people, given the risk of isolation in old age generally. Finally, very few (N=8) of the identified papers focused on older autistic people with co-occurring intellectual disability^{40–45}.

Whilst some topics salient to the autism community (physical and mental health) are well represented, based on our search results, the following areas are in need of more study:

- Autism and Intellectual Disability
- Quality of life
- Support needs and support preferences
- Sensory processing
- Studies that utilise longitudinal methods to examine age-related change

Therefore, it is imperative that autism researchers engage with older autistic people (i.e. consultation and coproduction) to identity topics for research that could improve their lives.

Recommendations to the field

Clearly, there are many pressing and open research questions remaining for this under-researched group. We suggest that, in addition to ongoing research in the areas we identified, that autism researchers consult with older autistic people to identify the research areas important to them.

Our search highlighted the relative difficulty of identifying papers on autism and old age, from keywords, titles and abstracts. Search terms such as 'older' and 'senior' bring up a large number of false positives (e.g., 'older children', 'senior manager'); trying to remove these was difficult and time consuming. Even with our stringent search strategy there were still abstracts that did not focus on autism or aging. This is potentially problematic for researchers interested wanting to gather research literature on autism in old age.

The use of a bespoke keyword for autism research papers addressing older adult issues could help identify this literature more clearly. Drawing on findings in market research, utilising unique keywords with low online search indexing can increase the ease of identifying relevant materials and reduces the number of false search results⁴⁶. We therefore propose that the autistic community, stakeholders, and researchers could be consulted on the creation of a new indexing keyword that could be used in future research publications. The creation of this keyword could be a very useful way to clearly mark papers that focus specifically on samples of older (age 50+ years) autistic people. We are

not suggesting that the creation and use of this keyword would replace other strategies to identify relevant literature, as this would be inappropriate. Rather, we suggest that authors could add this keyword to ensure their work is identified in searches for older age autism research. At present, it is not inconceivable that relevant material slips through the net when combining broader keywords that have high online search indexing (e.g. aging/older age, autism/ASD) in more complex search terms. Indeed, this can be seen from the diversity of search terms used in the abstracts we reviewed. Thus, the implementation of a unique keyword would be a useful aid to identifying older age autism research for members of the autistic community, relevant stakeholders, and researchers.

Strengths and limitations

Ours is the first study, as far as we are aware, to examine how the publication rate of autism research with older autistic people has changed over time. We developed our second search iteratively and applied a more stringent search strategy, in order to maximise the number of relevant papers and minimise the number of false positives.

Moreover, the a-priori set of research themes was reasonably robust - all of the themes captured at least one study and enabled us to provide an overview of the current topics of research attention.

There are several caveats to our approach. First, we set out to ascertain the trends in aging research according to our criteria, we did not intend to conduct a systematic review. Thus, we only examined the abstracts for information about each study with older autistic adults. As not every study reported the participant age, it is uncertain how relevant every abstract was to autism in old age. Second, a large number of studies could not be accommodated within our coding framework. Many of these addressed very 'niche' research questions, and we wanted to avoid a long list of categories with single papers. Future studies taking the present approach could attempt to refine the coding framework used here. Our search strategy did not explicitly include terms related to intellectual and/or learning disability (ID/LD). Thus, our count may underestimate the research literature on older autistic people with co-occurring ID or LD (see Tse et al.'s 2021 report on the characteristics of samples of older autistic people, which includes 16 studies with participants with ID; and Maguire et al., 2021 for a systematic review of autism and ID studies). Additionally, despite a comprehensive search strategy, a large number of papers were manually added to the final older age total by the authors as they were not captured by the three databases. Finally, our methodology was based on the review conducted by Mukaetova-Ladinska et al and was intended to be a broad overview of the literature, rather than systematic. We sought to identify if any changes could be detected since that often-cited paper, using a similar search strategy. Whilst not deeply exploring every paper (as a systematic review would) we sought to identify trends by examining abstracts only. Our results are consistent with other reviews, namely that there is a marked under-representation of older autistic people in autism research publications; however, we provide the novel finding that there is a small but consistently increasing trend for research with this group. Related to this, we did not examine

whether the focus of the study was on aging, or whether it simply included older autistic people among the participants. Thus, although we have examined the trends in papers based on our searches for autism and older age, we have not specifically tracked trends in research which has as its primary focus the ageing autistic population.

Conclusions

We found that there is still a dearth of autism research focused on older autistic people. What does exist focuses mainly on cross-sectional intra-individual factors (such as cognition, brain structure/function, and genetics). We make the case that autism researchers exploring older age ought to focus on areas such as quality of life and support needs (amongst others) and that active engagement with stakeholders (i.e. older autistic people) is essential. Additionally, studies that utilise longitudinal designs to examine age-related change are vital.

Given the difficulty in identifying research on autism in later life, we propose that a new unique keyword could be created and included in papers when reporting on research with older autistic people. This would help demarcate and raise the profile of the small but steadily growing literature on autism in old age.

Authorship confirmation statement

All authors designed the search strategy; DM and GRS performed all searches, and tabulated the data. All authors contributed to the writing of the manuscript.

Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Funding statement

There was no funding attached to this study.

Ethical statement

Ethics approval was not required for this study because there were no animal or human participants.

References

- 1. Mukaetova-Ladinska EB, Perry E, Baron M, Povey C, Group AAW. Ageing in people with autistic spectrum disorder. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2012;27(2):109-118.
- 2. Wright SD, Wright CA, D'Astous V, Wadsworth AM. Autism aging. *Gerontol Geriatr Educ.* 2019;40(3):322-338.
- 3. Happé F, Charlton RA. Aging in autism spectrum disorders: A mini-review. *Gerontology*. 2012;58(1):70-78.
- 4. Robison JE. Autism prevalence and outcomes in older adults. *Autism Res.* 2019;12(3):370-374.
- 5. Sonido M, Arnold S, Higgins J, Hwang YIJ. Autism in Later Life: What Is Known and What Is Needed? *Curr Dev Disord Reports*. 2020:1-9.
- 6. US Census Bureau. No Title. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States: April 1, 2010 to Jul 1 2019. www.census.gov. Published 2020. Accessed February 11, 2021.
- 7. Office for National Statistics. No Title. Overview of the UK population: January 2021. https://www.ons.gov.uk. Published 2021. Accessed February 11, 2021.
- 8. Brugha TS, McManus S, Bankart J, et al. Epidemiology of autism spectrum disorders in adults in the community in England. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2011;68(5):459-465.
- 9. Lai M-C, Baron-Cohen S. Identifying the lost generation of adults with autism spectrum conditions. *The Lancet Psychiatry*. 2015;2(11):1013-1027.
- Munn Z, Peters MDJ, Stern C, Tufanaru C, McArthur A, Aromataris E. Systematic review or scoping review?
 Guidance for authors when choosing between a systematic or scoping review approach. BMC Med Res
 Methodol. 2018;18(1):1-7.
- 11. Lever AG, Geurts HM. Age-related differences in cognition across the adult lifespan in autism spectrum disorder. *Autism Res.* 2016;9(6):666-676.
- 12. Hand BN, Angell AM, Harris L, Carpenter LA. Prevalence of physical and mental health conditions in Medicare-enrolled, autistic older adults. *Autism.* 2020;24(3):755-764.
- 13. Uljarević M, Hedley D, Rose-Foley K, et al. Anxiety and depression from adolescence to old age in autism spectrum disorder. *J Autism Dev Disord*. 2019:1-11.
- 14. Lever AG, Geurts HM. Psychiatric co-occurring symptoms and disorders in young, middle-aged, and older adults with autism spectrum disorder. *J Autism Dev Disord*. 2016;46(6):1916-1930.
- 15. Bathelt J, Koolschijn PC, Geurts HM. Age-variant and age-invariant features of functional brain organization in

- middle-aged and older autistic adults. Mol Autism. 2020;11(1):1-14.
- 16. Verhoeven WMA, Tuerlings J, van Ravenswaay-Arts CMA, Boermans JAJ, Tuinier S. Chromosomal abnormalities in clinical psychiatry: a report of two older patients. *Eur J psychiatry*. 2007;21(3):207-211.
- 17. Burgess AF, Gutstein SE. Quality of life for people with autism: Raising the standard for evaluating successful outcomes. *Child Adolesc Ment Health*. 2007;12(2):80-86.
- van Heijst BFC, Geurts HM. Quality of life in autism across the lifespan: A meta-analysis. *Autism*.
 2015;19(2):158-167. doi:https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361313517053
- Mason D, Mackintosh J, McConachie H, Rodgers J, Finch T, Parr JR. Quality of life for older autistic people: The impact of mental health difficulties. Res Autism Spectr Disord. 2019;63:13-22. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2019.02.007
- 20. Stewart GR, Corbett A, Ballard C, et al. Sleep problems and mental health difficulties in older adults who endorse high autistic traits. *Res Autism Spectr Disord*. 2020;77:101633.
- 21. Caselli RJ, Langlais BT, Dueck AC, Locke DEC, Woodruff BK. Subjective cognitive impairment and the broad autism phenotype. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord*. 2018;32(4):284.
- 22. Lever AG, Geurts HM. Is older age associated with higher self-and other-rated ASD characteristics? *J Autism Dev Disord*. 2018;48(6):2038-2051.
- 23. Stewart GR, Corbett A, Ballard C, et al. The mental and physical health of older adults with a genetic predisposition for autism. *Autism Res.* 2020;13(4):641-654.
- 24. Geurts HM, Stek M, Comijs H. Autism characteristics in older adults with depressive disorders. *Am J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2016;24(2):161-169.
- 25. Stewart GR, Charlton RA, Wallace GL. Aging with elevated autistic traits: Cognitive functioning among older adults with the broad autism phenotype. *Res Autism Spectr Disord*. 2018;54:27-36.
- 26. Stewart GR, Corbett A, Ballard C, et al. The mental and physical health profiles of older adults who endorse elevated autistic traits. *Journals Gerontol Ser B*. 2021;76(9):1726-1737.
- 27. Stewart GR, Wallace GL, Cottam M, Charlton RA. Theory of mind performance in younger and older adults with elevated autistic traits. *Autism Res.* 2020;13(5):751-762.
- 28. Wallace GL, Budgett J, Charlton RA. Aging and autism spectrum disorder: Evidence from the broad autism phenotype. *Autism Res.* 2016;9(12):1294-1303.
- 29. Hoekstra RA, Bartels M, Verweij CJH, Boomsma DI. Heritability of autistic traits in the general population. Arch

- Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2007;161(4):372-377. doi:10.1001/archpedi.161.4.372
- 30. Colvert E, Tick B, McEwen F, et al. Heritability of autism spectrum disorder in a UK population-based twin sample. *JAMA psychiatry*. 2015;72(5):415-423.
- 31. Tick B, Bolton P, Happé F, Rutter M, Rijsdijk F. Heritability of autism spectrum disorders: a meta-analysis of twin studies. *J Child Psychol Psychiatry*. 2016;57(5):585-595.
- 32. Bralten J, Van Hulzen KJ, Martens MB, et al. Autism spectrum disorders and autistic traits share genetics and biology. *Mol Psychiatry*. 2018;23(5):1205-1212. doi:https://doi.org/10.1038/mp.2017.98
- 33. Stewart GR, Corbett A, Ballard C, et al. The mental and physical health profiles of older adults who endorse elevated autistic traits. *Journals Gerontol Ser B.* 2020.
- 34. Mason D, Ronald A, Ambler A, et al. Autistic traits are associated with faster pace of aging: Evidence from the Dunedin study at age 45. *Autism Res.* 2021.
- 35. van Niekerk MEH, Groen W, Vissers CTWM, van Driel-de Jong D, Kan CC, Oude Voshaar RC. Diagnosing autism spectrum disorders in elderly people. *Int psychogeriatrics*. 2011;23(5):700-710. doi:https://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1041610210002152
- 36. Nicolaidis C, Raymaker D, Kapp SK, et al. The AASPIRE practice-based guidelines for the inclusion of autistic adults in research as co-researchers and study participants. *Autism.* 2019;23(8):2007-2019.
- 37. Crompton CJ, Michael C, Dawson M, Fletcher-Watson S. Residential Care for Older Autistic Adults: Insights from Three Multiexpert Summits. *Autism in Adulthood*. 2020.
- 38. Mason D, Capp SJ, Stewart GR, et al. A meta-analysis of outcome studies of autistic adults: Quantifying effect size, quality, and meta-regression. *J Autism Dev Disord*. 2020:1-15.
- 39. Mazurek M. Loneliness, friendship, and well-being in adults with autism spectrum disorders. *Autism*. 2014;18(3):223-232. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1362361312474121
- 40. Kats D, Payne L, Parlier M, Piven J. Prevalence of selected clinical problems in older adults with autism and intellectual disability. *J Neurodev Disord*. 2013;5(1):1-12.
- 41. Bishop-Fitzpatrick L, Rubenstein E. The physical and mental health of middle aged and older adults on the autism spectrum and the impact of intellectual disability. *Res Autism Spectr Disord*. 2019;63:34-41.
- 42. Gilmore D, Harris L, Longo A, Hand BN. Health status of Medicare-enrolled autistic older adults with and without co-occurring intellectual disability: An analysis of inpatient and institutional outpatient medical claims.

 *Autism. 2021;25(1):266-274.

- 43. Totsika V, Felce D, Kerr M, Hastings RP. Behavior problems, psychiatric symptoms, and quality of life for older adults with intellectual disability with and without autism. *J Autism Dev Disord*. 2010;40(10):1171-1178.
- 44. Sheehan R, Hassiotis A, Walters K, Osborn D, Strydom A, Horsfall L. Mental illness, challenging behaviour, and psychotropic drug prescribing in people with intellectual disability: UK population based cohort study. *Bmj.* 2015;351.
- 45. Tromans S, Kinney M, Chester V, et al. Priority concerns for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. *BJPsych open.* 2020;6(6).
- 46. Yang S, Pancras J, Song YA. Broad or exact? Search Ad matching decisions with keyword specificity and position. *Decis Support Syst.* 2021;143:113491.
- 47. Roestorf A, Bowler DM, Deserno MK, et al. "Older Adults with ASD: The Consequences of Aging." Insights from a series of special interest group meetings held at the International Society for Autism Research 2016–2017. Res Autism Spectr Disord. 2019;63:3-12. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2018.08.007

Figure legends

Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the process of data collection for the four age-bands used in the search.

Figure 2: The main graph illustrates the average number of search results from each data base using each age group search criteria 1) pre-2012 and 2) 2012 and later (i.e. post Mukaetova-Ladinska et al, 2012). The inset graph illustrates the number of older age search results with a reduced axis scale.

Figure 3: The main graph illustrates the publication trends for the childhood, adolescent, adult, and older adult searches. The inset graph illustrates the number of older age search results over time with a reduced axis scale. The y-axes denote number of studies published.

Table 1: Number of records identified in the search, sorted by age group and database

	PubMed	PsychINFO	Embase	Average
Childhood & Early Life	31,919	35,138	37,561	34,873
Adolescence	5,607	6,046	7,018	6,224
Adulthood	9,011	8,612	10,540	9,388
Older age (initial)	291	419	647	452
Older age (stringent)	137	124	250	187

Note: A subtotal of 145 unique older age papers were identified across the three stringent searches. An additional 67 papers were identified through reference searching and papers known to the authors, making the final total of unique older age papers n = 212.

Table 2: A-priori research themes, with the number of older age autism papers coded into each theme

Theme	Frequency	% of total	% excl. Irrelevant.
General Health ^a	17	8.0%	11.8%
Genetics/Molecular	16	7.5%	11.1%
Reviews ^b	16	7.5%	11.1%
Cognition	15	7.1%	10.4%
Autism Characteristics/Traits	11	5.2%	7.6%
Mental Health	10	4.7%	6.9%
The Brain	10	4.7%	6.9%
Diagnosis/Prevalence	9	4.2%	6.3%
Miscellaneous	9	4.2%	6.3%
Support Needs	9	4.2%	6.3%
Quality of Life	8	3.8%	5.6%
Letter to Editor	6	2.8%	4.2%
Sensory Processing	5	2.4%	3.5%
Physical Health	3	1.4%	2.1%
Irrelevant	68	32.1%	-

Note: Total unique papers n = 212 (of which 145 identified by stringent search, and 67 added by searching reference lists and other papers known to the authors). Total unique papers excluding Irrelevant n = 144.

'The brain' covers imaging and anatomical studies. 'Genetics/Molecular' covers genetics, animal models, and fundamental science studies. 'Autism characteristics/traits' covers trait-based studies e.g., outcomes/experiences in the broad autism phenotype.

^a papers that include both mental and physical health; ^b we included all reviews here, which may overlap with other categories (i.e. a review of sensory processing would go here, rather than in the sensory processing category.

Figures

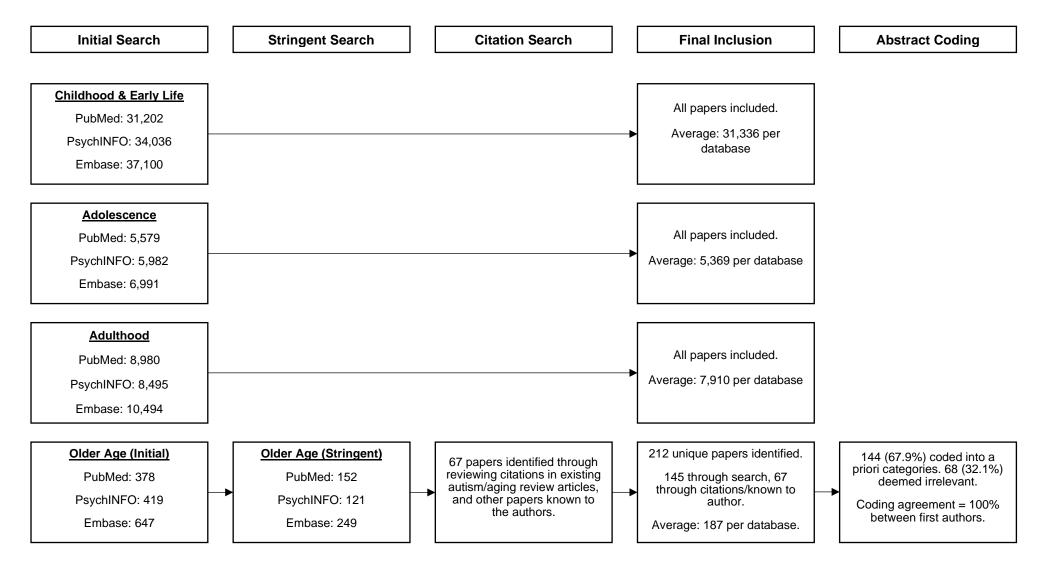


Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the process of data collection for the four age-bands used in the searches.

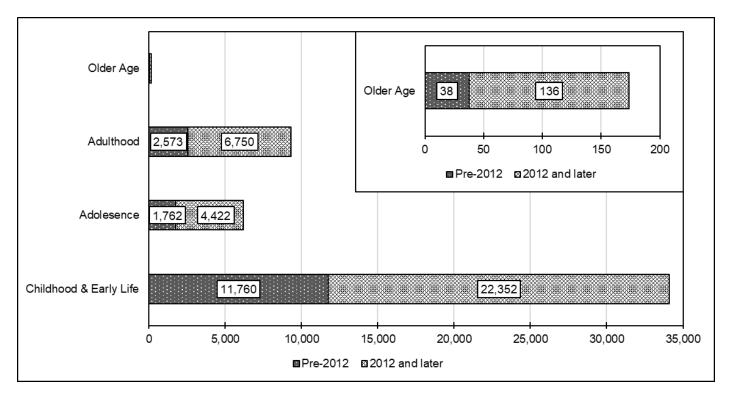


Figure 2: The main graph illustrates the average number of search results from each data base using each age group search criteria 1) pre-2012 and 2) 2012 and later (i.e. post Mukaetova-Ladinska et al, 2012). The inset graph illustrates the number of older age search results with a reduced axis scale.

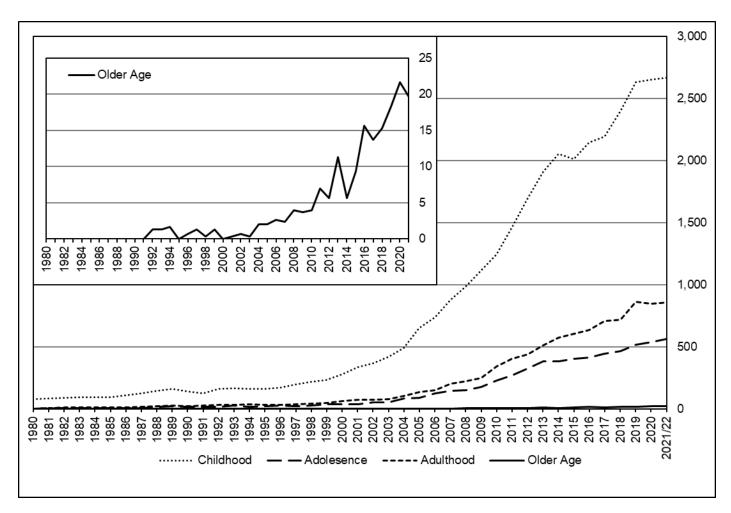


Figure 3: The main graph illustrates the publication trends for the childhood, adolescent, adult, and older adult (stringent) searches. The inset graph illustrates the number of older age (stringent) search results over time with a reduced axis scale. The y-axes denote number of studies published.

Search term	Present study	Mukaetova-Ladinska et al.
Autism*	✓	✓
Autism spectrum disorder	✓	✓
Autistic*	✓	✓
Autistic disorder	✓	✓
Autistic symptoms	✓	✓
Asperger*	✓	✓
PDD-NOS	✓	
Toddler	✓	
Infant	✓	
Infancy	√	
Child*	✓	
Children	√	✓
Adolescence	√	
Adolescent*	✓	✓
Teen*	✓	
Adult*	√	✓
Young adult*	✓	✓
Old age*	√	✓
Older age	✓	
Older adult	✓	
Elderly		✓

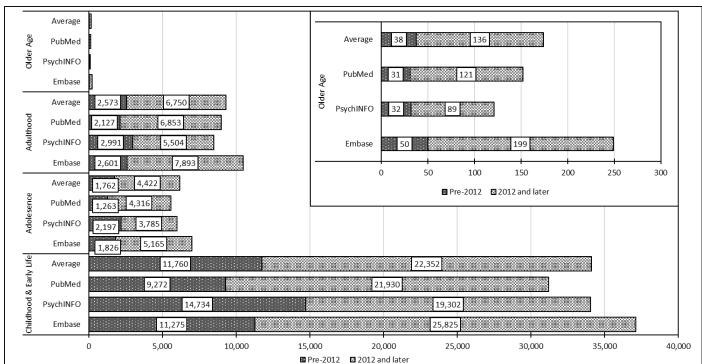
Elder*	✓	
Senior	√	
Late* adulthood	√	
Developmental disorder		✓
Aged		✓
Aged, 60 and over		✓

Note, the '*' used in conjunction with a search term is a wildcard. This will return all permutations and potential endings for the search term. For example 'autism*' will return 'autism', 'autism spectrum disorder', 'autism spectrum condition', 'autistic', 'autistic disorder' etc.

Supplementary Material 2: Example search strategy used in Embase for the older age group

1	Autism*
2	Autism spectrum disorder
3	Autistic*
4	Autistic disorder
5	Autistic symptoms
6	Asperger*
7	PDD-NOS
8	1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 OR 6 OR 7
9	Old age*
10	Older age
11	Older adult
12	Elder*
13	Senior
14	Late* adulthood
15	9 OR 10 OR 11 OR 12 OR 13 OR 14
16	8 AND 15

Supplementary Material 3: Publication results by database



Supplementary Figure 1: The main

graph illustrates the number of search results from each data base using each age group search criteria 1) pre-2012 and 2) 2012 and later (i.e. post Mukaetova-Ladinska et al, 2012). The inset graph illustrates the number of older age search results from each database with a reduced axis scale.

Supplementary Material 4: Full list of articles included in the stringent search, by a priori category

General Health (n=17)		
Title	First Author	Year
Executive Functions in Older Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder: Objective Performance and Subjective Complaints	Davids, R. C. D.	2020
Health status of Medicare-enrolled autistic older adults with and without co- occurring intellectual disability: An analysis of inpatient and institutional outpatient medical claims	Gilmore, D.	2020
General health of adults with autism spectrum disorders - A whole country population cross-sectional study	Rydzewska, E.	2019
Is the Autism Boom Headed for Medicaid? Patterns in the Enrollment of Autistic Adults in Wisconsin Medicaid, 2008-2018	Rubenstein, E.	2019
The physical and mental health of middle aged and older adults on the autism spectrum and the impact of intellectual disability	Bishop-Fitzpatrick, L.	2019
General health of adults with autism spectrum disorders – A whole country population cross-sectional study	Rydzewska, E.	2019
A Danish register-based study on involuntary treatment in anorexia nervosa	Clausen, L.	2018
Older Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Sweden: A Register Study of Diagnoses, Psychiatric Care Utilization and Psychotropic Medication of 601 Individuals	Nylander, N.	2018
Using machine learning to identify patterns of lifetime health problems in decedents with autism spectrum disorder	Bishop-Fitzpatrick, L.	2018

Prevalence of long-term health conditions in adults with autism: observational	Rydzewska, E.	2018
study of a whole country population		
Prevalence, types and associations of medically unexplained symptoms and	Osugo, M.	2017
signs. A cross-sectional study of 1023 adults with intellectual disabilities		
Health conditions and functional status in adults with autism: A cross-sectional	Fortuna, R. J.	2016
evaluation		
The health status of adults on the autism spectrum	Croen, L. A.	2015
Developmental Disorders and Dementia	Midorikawa, A.	2015
Prevalence of selected clinical problems in older adults with autism and	Kats, D.	2013
intellectual disability		
Prevalence of physical and mental health conditions in Medicare-enrolled,	Hand, B. N.	2006
autistic older adults		
The velocardiofacial syndrome in older age: dementia and autistic features	Evers, L. J. M.	2006

Genetics/Molecular (n=16)		
Title	First Author	Year
Conditional knockout of MET receptor tyrosine kinase in cortical excitatory	Xia, B.	2021
neurons leads to enhanced learning and memory in young adult mice but early		
cognitive decline in older adult mice		
Digging Signatures in 13-Month-Old 3xTg-AD Mice for Alzheimer's Disease	Gimenez-Llort, L.	2021
and Its Disruption by Isolation Despite Social Life Since They Were Born		
Sex bias in seizure susceptibility of a mouse model of the risk gene for autism	Muhle, R. A.	2021
spectrum disorder, CHD8		
ADNP differentially interact with genes/proteins in correlation with aging: a	Kapitansky, O.	2019
novel marker for muscle aging		
Heterozygous loss of function of IQSEC2/Iqsec2 leads to increased activated	Jackson, M. R.	2019
Arf6 and severe neurocognitive seizure phenotype in females		
Phenotypic characterization of an older adult male with late-onset epilepsy and	Verhoeven, W. M. A.	2018
a novel mutation in ASXL3 shows overlap with the associated Bainbridge-		
Ropers syndrome		
Increased Paternal Age at Conception Is Associated with Transcriptomic	Nevalainen, T.	2016
Changes Involved in Mitochondrial Function in Elderly Individuals		
A truncating mutation in Alzheimer's disease inactivates neuroligin-1 synaptic	Tristán-Clavijo, E.	2015
function		
Overlapping and distinct sex-specific serum molecular profiles in	Ramsey, J. M.	2014
schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, and Asperger syndrome		
The effects of aging on the BTBR mouse model of autism spectrum disorder	Jasien, J. M.	2014

Genome-wide scan of healthy human connectome discovers SPON1 gene	Jahanshad, N.	2013
variant influencing dementia severity		
Fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome	Leehey, M. A.	2012
Differential usage of transcriptional start sites and polyadenylation sites in	Tassone, F.	2011
FMR1 premutation alleles		
Reduced glutathione regenerating enzymes undergo developmental decline	Dukhande, V.V.	2009
and sexual dimorphism in the rat cerebral cortex		
Chromosomal abnormalities in clinical psychiatry: A report of two older patients	Verhoeven, W. M. A.	2007
Presence of large deletions in kindreds with autism	Yu, C. E.	2002

Reviews (n=16)		
Title	First Author	Year
Autism spectrum disorder in older adults with intellectual disability: a scoping	Maguire, E.	2021
review		
Diagnosis of autism in adulthood: A scoping review	Huang, Y.	2021
Aging in Autism Spectrum Disorder	Wise, E. A.	2020
An overview of autism in the elderly	Amanullah, S.	2020
Annual Research Review: Looking back to look forward – changes in the	Happé, F.	2020
concept of autism and implications for future research		
Autism in Later Life: What Is Known and What Is Needed?	Sonido, M.	2020
Characteristics of Older Autistic Adults: a Systematic Review of Literature	Tse, V. W. S.	2020
Older Adults with ASD: The Consequences of Aging. Insights from a series of	Roestorf, A.	2019
special interest group meetings held at the International Society for Autism		
Research 2016-2017		
Aging and autism spectrum disorder: A naturalistic, longitudinal study of the	Wise, E. A.	2017
comorbidities and behavioral and neuropsychiatric symptoms in adults with		
ASD		
Old Age in Adults with ASD: Psychosocial Aspects—a Systematic Review	Parchomiuk, M.	2016
Autism spectrum disorders in elderly	Hasegawa, N.	2013
Ageing in people with autistic spectrum disorder	Mukaetova-Ladinska,	2012
	E. B.	
Into the unknown: aging with autism spectrum disorders	Perkins, E. A.	2012

Aging in autism spectrum disorders: A mini-review	Happé, F.	2011
Autism spectrum disorders in older adults: toward defining a research agenda	Piven, J.	2011
Neurodevelopmental conditions and aging: report on the Atlanta Study Group	Janicki, M. P.	2008
Charrette on Neurodevelopmental Conditions and Aging		

Title	First Author	Year
Age-Related Effects on Social Cognition in Adults with Autism Spectrum	Yarar, E. Z.	2020
Disorder: A Possible Protective Effect on Theory of Mind		
Short-term memory span and cross-modality integration in younger and older	Ring, M.	2020
adults with and without autism spectrum disorder		
Exploratory study of executive function abilities across the adult lifespan in	Abbott, P.	2019
individuals receiving an ASD diagnosis in adulthood		
Age group differences in executive network functional connectivity and	Walsh, M. J. M.	2019
relationships with social behavior in men with autism spectrum disorder		
The influence of age and ASD on verbal fluency networks	Baxter, L. C.	2019
Comparing Intellectual and Memory Abilities of Older Autistic Adults with	Tse, V. W. S.	2019
Typically Developing Older Adults Using WAIS-IV and WMS-IV		
Associations between executive functions and mental health outcomes for	Zimmerman, D.	2017
adults with autism spectrum disorder		
Executive Function and Functional and Structural Brain Differences in Middle-	Braden, B. B.	2017
Age Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder		
Patterns of age-related cognitive differences in adults with autism spectrum	Powell, P. S.	2017
disorder		
Atypical working memory decline across the adult lifespan in autism spectrum	Lever, A. G.	2016
disorder?		
Age-related differences in cognition across the adult lifespan in autism	Lever, A. G.	2016
spectrum disorder		
Relational Memory Processes in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder	Ring, M.	2016

Executive Functions in Older Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder: Objective	Davids, R. C. D.	2016
Performance and Subjective Complaints		
Executive Functioning in 60+ Autistic Males: The Discrepancy Between	Geurts, H. M.	2015
Experienced Challenges and Cognitive Performance		
Elderly with autism: executive functions and memory	Geurts, H. M.	2012

Title	First Author	Year
Aging and autism spectrum disorder: Evidence from the broad autism	Wallace, G. L.	2020
phenotype		
The Mental and Physical Health Profiles of Older Adults Who Endorse	Stewart, G. R.	2020
Elevated Autistic Traits		
Theory of mind performance in younger and older adults with elevated autistic	Stewart, G. R.	2020
traits		
Aging with elevated autistic traits: Cognitive functioning among older adults	Stewart, G. R.	2019
with the broad autism phenotype		
Autism characteristics in older adults with depressive disorders	Geurts, H. M.	2019
Is Older Age Associated with Higher Self- and Other-Rated ASD	Lever, A. G.	2018
Characteristics?		
Is older age associated with higher self-and other-rated ASD characteristics?	Lever, A. G.	2018
Subjective cognitive impairment and the broad autism phenotype	Caselli, R. J.	2018
The Mental and Physical Health of Older Adults With a Genetic Predisposition	Stewart, G. R.	2018
for Autism		
Sleep problems and mental health difficulties in older adults who endorse high	Stewart, G. R.	2016
autistic traits		
Self-reported autism symptoms in adults with autism spectrum disorders	Bishop, S. L.	2012

Mental Health (n=10)		
Title	First Author	Year
Anxiety and Depression from Adolescence to Old Age in Autism Spectrum	Uljarević, M.	2020
Disorder		
Autism spectrum disorder and risk for psychosis: A psychiatric case register	Schalbroeck, R.	2017
study in the Netherlands		
Aging and Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Naturalistic, Longitudinal Study of the	Wise, E. A.	2017
Comorbidities and Behavioral and Neuropsychiatric Symptoms in Adults with		
ASD		
Psychiatric Co-occurring Symptoms and Disorders in Young, Middle-Aged, and	Lever, A. G.	2016
Older Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder		
Mental illness, challenging behaviour, and psychotropic drug prescribing in	Sheehan, R.	2015
people with intellectual disability: UK population based cohort study		
Self and informant reports of mental health difficulties among adults with	Moss, P.	2015
autism findings from a long-term follow-up study		
Anxiety symptoms across the lifespan in people diagnosed with Autistic	Davis, T. E.	2011
Disorder		
Psychiatric and psychosocial problems in adults with normal-intelligence	Hofvander, B.	2009
autism spectrum disorders		
Epidemiology of psychiatric disorders in elderly compared with younger adults	Cooper, S. A.	1997
with learning disabilities		
Clinical psychopathologic study of aged chronic schizophrenics in residential	Mastuzawa, N.	1994
homes for the elderlyrelapsed and non-relapsed		

The Brain (n=10)		
Title	First Author	Year
Age-variant and age-invariant features of functional brain organization in	Bathelt, J.	2020
middle-aged and older autistic adults		
Becoming Stressed: Does the Age Matter? Reviewing the Neurobiological and	Mañas-Ojeda, A.	2020
Socio-Affective Effects of Stress throughout the Lifespan		
Impaired motor skills and atypical functional connectivity of the sensorimotor	Linke, A. C.	2020
system in 40- to 65-year-old adults with autism spectrum disorders		
Autistic traits modulate the activity of the ventromedial prefrontal cortex in	Murakami, Y.	2018
response to female faces		
Lifespan oxytocin signaling: Maturation, flexibility, and stability in newborn,	Sannino, S.	2017
adolescent, and aged brain		
Age-related differences in autism: The case of white matter microstructure	Koolschijn, P. C. M.	2016
	P.	
Gray Matter Characteristics in Mid and Old Aged Adults with ASD	Koolschijn, P. C. M.	2016
	P.	
Motion and morphometry in clinical and nonclinical populations	Pardoe, H. R.	2016
The neural correlates of perceptual closure in adults and elderly with autism	Grützner, C.	2014
spectrum disorders		
Heparan sulfate deficiency in autistic postmortem brain tissue from the	Pearson, B. L.	2013
subventricular zone of the lateral ventricles		

Diagnosis/Prevalence (n=9)		
Title	First Author	Year
Differential diagnosis personality disorder versus autism spectrum disorder in older adults	Videler, A. C.	2020
Is Autism inborn and lifelong for everyone?	Whiteley, P.	2019
Autism or personality disorder in older adults? Guidelines for the differential	Videler, A. C.	2018
diagnosis	videlei, A. C.	2010
Screening of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Geriatric Psychiatry	Heijnen-Kohl, S. M. J.	2017
Demographic and Cognitive Profile of Individuals Seeking a Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Adulthood	Happé, F.	2016
Identifying the lost generation of adults with autism spectrum conditions	Lai, M. C.	2015
Screening of autism spectrum disorders in the elderly: a contribution to a psychometric approach	van Alphen, S. P. J. B	2012
Diagnosing autism spectrum disorders in elderly people	van Niekerk, M. E. H.	2011
Diagnosis of Asperger syndrome in a 66-year-old male presenting with depression	Naidu, A.	2006

Miscellaneous (n=9)		
Title	First Author	Year
Isolating residents including wandering residents in care and group homes:	Liddell, K.	2021
Medical ethics and English law in the context of Covid-19		
Refractory catatonia in old age: a case report	Bean, E.	2021
'A way to be me': Autobiographical reflections of autistic adults diagnosed in	Lilley, R.	2021
mid-to-late adulthood		
Priority concerns for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities	Tromans, S.	2020
during the COVID-19 pandemic		
Evaluation of employment-support services for adults with autism spectrum	Nicholas, D. B.	2018
disorder		
Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide of Patients With Psychiatric Disorders in the	Kim, S. Y. H	2016
Netherlands 2011 to 2014		
Diogenes syndrome and autistic spectrum disorder	Sadlierm, M.	2011
Age-related differences in restricted repetitive behaviors in autism spectrum	Esbensen, A. J.	2009
disorders		
Acquired 'theory of mind' impairments following stroke	Happé, F.	1999

Support Needs (n=9)		
Title	First Author	Year
Care providers' perceptions and awareness of health services and programs	Vega, K.	2021
for autism spectrum disorder among the aging population		
A Meta-analysis of Outcome Studies of Autistic Adults: Quantifying Effect Size,	Mason, D.	2020
Quality, and Meta-regression		
Correlates of daily functioning in older adults with autism spectrum disorder	Wise, E. A.	2019
Growing older with autism – The experiences of adult siblings of individuals	Moss, P.	2019
with autism		
Suddenly the first fifty years of my life made sense: Experiences of older	Hickey, A.	2018
people with autism		
Characteristics of adults with autism spectrum disorder who use residential	Hewitt, A. S.	2017
services and supports through adult developmental disability services in the		
United States		
Co-Creating the Autistic Satisfaction with Care Holistic Interview to Examine	Crompton, C. J.	2016
the Experiences of Older Autistic Adults in Residential Care		
Old age and people on the autism spectrum: a focus group perspective	Barber, C.	2015
Social outcomes in mid- to later adulthood among individuals diagnosed with	Howlin, P.	2013
autism and average nonverbal IQ as children		

Quality of Life (n=8)		
Title	First Author	Year
Quality of life in adults with autism spectrum disorder: influence of age, sex, and a controlled, randomized mindfulness-based stress reduction pilot	Braden, B. B.	2021
intervention		
Quality of life for older autistic people: the impact of mental health difficulties	Mason, D.	2020
Aging and autism: Understanding, intervention and proposals to improve	Ruggieri, V.	2019
quality of life		
Aging well on the autism spectrum: an examination of the dominant model of	Hwang, Y. I.	2018
successful aging		
Child and Adult Factors Related to Quality of Life in Adults with Autism	Moss, P.	2017
Model of social exclusion of the elderly people in Siberian Regions	Maximova, S. G.	2017
Quality of life in autism across the lifespan: a meta-analysis	van Heijst, B. F. C.	2015
Behavior problems, psychiatric symptoms, and quality of life for older adults	Totsika, V.	2010
with intellectual disability with and without autism		

Letter to the Editor / Editorial (n=6) Title First Author Year Research, Clinical, and Sociological Aspects of Autism Whiteley, P. 2021 Talking about autism-thoughts for researchers Robison, J. E. 2019 Autism prevalence and outcomes in older adults Robison, J. E. 2018 Aging with autism spectrum disorder: an emerging public health problem Hategan, A. 2017 What is Life Like in the Twilight Years? A Letter About the Scant Amount of Bennett, M. 2016 Literature on the Elderly with Autism Spectrum Disorders Why we need research about autism and ageing Michael, C. 2016

Sensory Processing (n=5)		
Title	First Author	Year
Assessing sensory processing dysfunction in adults and adolescents with	DuBois, D.	2017
autism spectrum disorder: A scoping review		
Age and sensory processing abnormalities predict declines in encoding and	Mayer, J. L.	2014
recall of temporally manipulated speech in high-functioning adults with ASD		
Sensory processing in adults with autism spectrum disorders	Crane, L.	2009
Sensory sensitivities and performance on sensory perceptual tasks in high-	Minshew, N. J.	2008
functioning individuals with autism		
Sensory correlations in autism	Kern, J. K.	2007

Physical Health (n=3)		
Title	First Author	Year
Self-reported parkinsonism features in older autistic adults: A descriptive study	Geurts, H. M.	2021
Women with autism in the Netherlands: Health and healthcare disparities	Waltz, M.	2019
High rates of parkinsonism in adults with autism	Starkstein, S.	2015

Irrelevant (n=68)		
Title	First Author	Year
A media intervention applying debunking versus non-debunking content to	Yousuf, H.	2021
combat vaccine misinformation in elderly in the Netherlands: A digital		
randomised trial		
Diagnostic progression to bipolar disorder in 17,285 adolescents and young	Chu, C. S.	2021
adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: A longitudinal follow-up study		
Extracellular Vesicles in Neurological Disorders	Mazurskyy, A.	2021
Medical Students and SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination: Attitude and Behaviors	Szmyd, B.	2021
Participatory autism research: Early career and established researchers' views	Pickard, H.	2021
and experiences		
Polypharmacy is a risk factor for mortality, severe chronic kidney disease, and	Whitney, D. G.	2021
liver disease among privately insured adults with cerebral palsy		
Reduced multisensory facilitation exists at different periods of development in autism	Ainsworth, K.	2021
	O. W. N.	0004
Transgenerational epigenetic information through the sperm: Sperm cells not	Osumi, N.	2021
just merely supply half of the genome for new life		
Vitamin D: A Pleiotropic Hormone with Possible Psychotropic Activities	Marazziti, D.	2021
Chromosome instability, aging and brain diseases	Yurov, Y. B.	2021
Polygenic Risk of Psychiatric Disorders Exhibits Cross-trait Associations in	Kember, R. L.	2021
Electronic Health Record Data From European Ancestry Individuals		
Are there sex differences in potentially inappropriate prescribing in adults with	Ukhanova, M.	2021
multimorbidity?		

Vitamin D: A Pleiotropic Hormone with Possible Psychotropic Activities	Marazziti, D.	2021
Premutations in the FMR1 gene in Serbian patients with undetermined tremor,	Pesic, M.	2021
ataxia and parkinsonism		
Validating the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised in the Korean Population	Oh, M.	2021
Are Interactions between Epicardial Adipose Tissue, Cardiac Fibroblasts and	Krishnan, A.	2021
Cardiac Myocytes Instrumental in Atrial Fibrosis and Atrial Fibrillation?		
COVID-19 and mental health: the other side of the coin	Demartini, D.	2021
Self-harm and Mental Health Characteristics of Prisoners with elevated rates of	Chaplin, E.	2021
autistic traits		
Higher levels of autistic traits associated with lower levels of self-efficacy and	Buckley, E.	2021
wellbeing for performing arts professionals		
An Acceptance Test for Assistive Robots	Martin-Rico, F.	2020
Gamma oscillations weaken with age in healthy elderly in human EEG	Murty, D. V. P. S.	2020
Polypharmacy Among Privately Insured Adults with Cerebral Palsy: A	Whitney, D. G.	2020
Retrospective Cohort Study		
The Learning, Social and Emotion Adaptation Questionnaire-Short Form: A	Tse, H. M. Y.	2020
Measure of Adaptive Behavior for Primary School Students with Autism		
Spectrum Disorder		
Evaluating specialist autism teams' provision of care and support for autistic	Beresford, B.	2020
adults without learning disabilities: the SHAPE mixed-methods study		
Comparison of inpatient versus outpatient management of pediatric	Allen, D. Z.	2019
peritonsillar abscess outcomes		
Health issues and informal caregiving in Europe and Italy	Petrini, M.	2019

Preliminary evidence of the validity process of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS): translation, cross-cultural adaptation and	Pacifico, M. C.	2019
semantic equivalence of the Brazilian Portuguese version		
The role of the gut microbiome in mediating neurotoxic outcomes to PCB exposure	Rude, K. M.	2019
The Transformative Possibilities of the Microbiota and Mycobiota for Health, Disease, Aging, and Technological Innovation	Jones, L.	2019
Mucopolysaccharidosis Type III	Wagner, V. F.	2019
Effects of Dance Movement Therapy and Dance on Health-Related Psychological Outcomes. A Meta-Analysis Update	Koch, S. C.	2019
Accelerometer-Assessed Physical Activity and Sedentary Time in Youth With Disabilities	Lobenius-Palmé, K.	2018
Effects of exposure estimation errors on estimated exposure-response relations for PM2.5	Cox, L. A. T.	2018
Federal Parity and Access to Behavioral Health Care in Private Health Plans	Hodgkin, D.	2018
Korean adults' beliefs about and social distance toward attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, Tourette syndrome, and autism spectrum disorder	Park, S.	2018
Mixed Neurodevelopmental and Neurodegenerative Pathology in Nhe6-Null Mouse Model of Christianson Syndrome	Xu, M.	2018
School dysfunction in youth with autistic spectrum disorder in Taiwan: The effect of subtype and ADHD	Chiang, H. L.	2018
The Importance of Complying with Vaccination Protocols in Developed Countries: "Anti-Vax" Hysteria and the Spread of Severe Preventable Diseases	Pandolfi, F.	2018
Brain-Computer Interface for Clinical Purposes: Cognitive Assessment and Rehabilitation	Carelli, L.	2017

Cerebellar contributions to biological motion perception in autism and typical	Jack, A.	2017
development		
Diagnosis of autism through EEG processed by advanced computational	Grossi, E.	2017
algorithms: A pilot study		
Factors affecting dance exercise performance in students at a special needs	Ito, Y.	2017
school		
Genotype-phenotype correlations in Cornelia de Lange syndrome: Behavioral	Moss, J.	2017
characteristics and changes with age		
Parent-Reported Repetitive Behavior in Toddlers on the Autism Spectrum	Schertz, H. H.	2016
Promoting the Development of Adaptive Expertise: Exploring a Simulation	Kawamura, A.	2016
Model for Sharing a Diagnosis of Autism With Parents		
Rare structural genetic variation in human prion diseases	Lukic, A.	2015
A genome-wide study shows a limited contribution of rare copy number	Chapman, J.	2013
variants to Alzheimer's disease risk		
Asperger syndrome and DSM-5: a dilemma for a college freshman	Galligan, M. G.	2013
Broad-spectrum micronutrient formulas for the treatment of psychiatric	Rucklidge, J. J.	2013
symptoms: a systematic review		
Effects of a 10-day oxytocin trial in older adults on health and well-being	Barraza, J. A.	2013
Leukocyte telomere length and the father's age enigma: implications for	Aviv, A.	2013
population health and for life course		
Music perception and cognition: development, neural basis, and rehabilitative	Särkämö, T.	2013
use of music		
Summary of the comparative effectiveness review on off-label use of atypical	Maher, A. R.	2012
antipsychotics		

A survey of molecular details in the human pineal gland in the light of phylogeny, structure, function and chronobiological diseases	Stehle, J. H.	2011
Advanced parental ages and low birth weight in autism spectrum disorders-rates and effect on functioning	Itzchak, E. B.	2011
Clinical assessment of DSM-IV anxiety disorders in fragile X syndrome: prevalence and characterization	Cordeiro, L.	2011
Genetic screening of LCA in Belgium: predominance of CEP290 and identification of potential modifier alleles in AHI1 of CEP290-related phenotypes	Coppieters, F.	2010
Sanfilippo B in an elderly female psychiatric patient: a rare but relevant diagnosis in presenile dementia	Verhoeven, W. M. A.	2010
Online video game therapy for mental health concerns: a review	Wilkinson, N.	2008
Treatment of hypersexual behavior with oral estrogen in an autistic male	Jones, M. C.	2008
Lumpers or splitters? The role of molecular diagnosis in Leber congenital amaurosis	Traboulsi, E. I.	2006
Review of Positive Approaches to Supporting People with Autistic Spectrum Disorders	Davies, D.	2006
Homicide by mentally ill: clinical and criminological analysis	Pera, S. B.	2005
Improving staff performance through clinician application of outcome management	Reid, D. H	2005
Dental hygiene students' attitudes toward treating individuals with disabilities	Loiacono, C.	1996
Molecular insights into schizophrenia	Pettegrew, J. W.	1992
Nonneuroleptic treatment of disruptive behavior in organic mental syndromes	Smith, D. A.	1992
Self-esteem and anthrophobic-tendency in adolescents	Okada, T.	1990