

**Patterns
of psychiatric morbidity and cognitive styles in parents of autistic children: the
correlation with the symptoms profile of their autistic children**

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Aim of the work: To detect the type of possible psychiatric morbidity in parents of autistic children and to assess the cognitive style in those parents in order to correlate cognitive style and psychiatric morbidity in the parents to autistic features in their children.

Study design: Cross- sectional, case control study.

Method: The study includes 28 child with pervasive developmental disorder with their parents and 20 healthy child with their parents. The children are subjected to the International Classification of Disease ICD-10 (Janka, 1994), Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) and Stanford Binet intelligence scale for IQ assessment. The parents of both groups are subjected to psychiatric interview using ICD-10 symptoms checklist, assessment of IQ using Arabic version of Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised (WAIS-R) and all are underwent Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST) for assessment of cognitive function.

Results: Fathers of cases have more total errors on WCST scores than fathers of control. Mothers of cases needed more trials administered, more perseverated errors, they had less conceptual level. There is Statistical significant difference between fathers and mothers of cases as regards total error, trials to complete first category, and failure to maintain set. There is statistically significant difference between Fathers of cases and fathers of control as regards the comprehension and the picture completion subscales of WAIS-R, while mothers of cases show impairments in comprehension and Picture completion, and lower scores in arithmetic problem and block design.

Conclusion: parents of autistic children have multiple cognitive deficits in both WCST and WAIS-R.

Psychiatric disorders are prevalent among parents of cases compared to control, mothers have higher rate of psychiatric disorder than fathers. Mild to moderate severity of autism is related to the presence of psychiatric morbidity in parents.