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## The basic level of oxytocin in children's patients suffering from autism spectrum disorders

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**Abstract.** A modern assessment of the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders indicates an increase in the number of patients [1]. As a rule, rates up to 3-4 cases per 10,000 of the population reflect the prevalence of typical forms of autistic disorders, such as early childhood autism and Kanner's syndrome [2]. With a broader assessment of other disorders that are included in the group of general disorders of mental development, the prevalence rates increase from 7.6 per 1000 to 157 per 10,000 [3, 4]. A significant increase in patients with childhood and older autism inevitably leads to the actualisation of scientific research on social problems [5].

**The aim of the research:** to study the social characteristics of patients with autistic disorders of childhood, hospitalised in a psychiatric hospital for the first time.

**Results:** according to the results of a comparative analysis, children with autism were significantly more have a disability group than children with mental retardation (53.3 % and 13.5 %,  $p < 0.05$ ), and were also significantly less to be social orphans and were fully supported by the state till the time of first hospitalisation (2.6 % and 35.1 %,  $p < 0.05$ ). It was found that a relatively comparable number of children of both groups lived in single-parent families (20.5 % and 25.7 %); statistical significance corresponded to the level of random differences in this indicator. There was a clear trend towards a more prosperous situation for autistic children. Patients with autism spectrum disorder were less likely than those with intellectual disability to be in care (5.1 % vs. 21.6 %) and also less likely to have parents with alcohol or drug addiction (7.7 % vs. 20.3 %). However, the assessment of statistical significance in order to recognise the significant differences between groups in these parameters did not reach a statistically significant level.

**Conclusions:** it was found that paediatric patients with autism spectrum disorders, who were first hospitalised in a hospital, were significantly more come from a more prosperous family environment than patients with mental retardation.

**Key words:** autism spectrum disorders, mental retardation, social characteristics.

**Conflict of interest.** The authors declare the absence of obvious and potential conflicts of interest associated with the publication of this article.

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