

# PARENT RATINGS OF BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF BIOMEDICAL INTERVENTIONS

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The parents of autistic children represent a vast and important reservoir of information on the benefits—and adverse effects—of the large variety of drugs and other interventions that have been tried with their children. Since 1967 the Autism Research Institute has been collecting parent ratings of the usefulness of the many interventions tried on their autistic children.

The following data have been collected from the more than 25,500 parents who have completed our questionnaires designed to collect such information. For the purposes of the present table, the parents responses on a six-point scale have been combined into three categories: “made worse” (ratings 1 and 2), “no effect” (ratings 3 and 4), and “made better” (ratings 5 and 6). The “Better:Worse” column gives the number of children who “Got Better” for each one who “Got Worse.”

DRUGS	Parent Ratings					DRUGS	Parent Ratings					DRUGS	Parent Ratings				
	Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>		Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>		Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>
Aderall	42%	25%	33%	0.8:1	694	Desipramine	34%	33%	33%	1.0:1	82	Phenobarb. <sup>D</sup>					
Amphetamine	47%	28%	25%	0.5:1	1286	Dilantin <sup>D</sup>						Behavior	47%	37%	16%	0.3:1	1099
Anafranil	32%	38%	30%	0.9:1	405	Behavior	28%	49%	23%	0.8:1	1097	Seizures	18%	43%	39%	2.2:1	508
Antibiotics	32%	54%	14%	0.4:1	2039	Seizures	15%	36%	49%	3.3:1	422	Prolixin	30%	41%	29%	1.0:1	97
Antifungals <sup>C</sup>						Felbatol	20%	56%	24%	1.2:1	50	Prozac	31%	32%	36%	1.2:1	1240
Diflucan	5%	42%	53%	10:1	505	Fenfluramine	20%	52%	27%	1.3:1	473	Risperidal	19%	27%	54%	2.9:1	912
Nystatin	5%	46%	49%	9.4:1	1229	Halcion	37%	42%	22%	0.6:1	65	Ritalin	44%	26%	29%	0.7:1	4029
Atarax	25%	53%	22%	0.9:1	502	Haldol	38%	28%	34%	0.9:1	1186	Secretin					
Benadryl	24%	51%	25%	1.1:1	2924	IVIG	10%	46%	44%	4.4:1	70	Intravenous	7%	48%	45%	6.3:1	422
Beta Blocker	17%	51%	32%	1.9:1	276	Klonopin <sup>D</sup>						Transderm.	10%	53%	37%	3.6:1	176
Buspar	26%	44%	30%	1.1:1	369	Behavior	28%	39%	33%	1.1:1	224	Stelazine	28%	45%	27%	0.9:1	431
Chloral						Seizures	25%	60%	15%	0.6:1	60	Steroids	35%	33%	32%	0.9:1	111
Hydrate	41%	39%	20%	0.5:1	443	Lithium	24%	45%	31%	1.3:1	441	Tegretol <sup>D</sup>					
Clonidine	21%	31%	47%	2.2:1	1441	Luvox	29%	37%	34%	1.2:1	203	Behavior	25%	45%	30%	1.2:1	1492
Clozapine	37%	43%	20%	0.5:1	140	Mellaril	28%	38%	33%	1.2:1	2088	Seizures	13%	33%	54%	4.2:1	814
Cogentin	19%	55%	27%	1.4:1	176	Mysoline <sup>D</sup>						Thorazine	36%	40%	24%	0.7:1	933
Cylert	45%	35%	20%	0.4:1	618	Behavior	41%	45%	14%	0.3:1	146	Tofranil	29%	38%	33%	1.1:1	766
Deanol	15%	57%	29%	2.0:1	206	Seizures	19%	56%	25%	1.4:1	75	Valium	35%	41%	24%	0.7:1	851
Depakene <sup>D</sup>						Naltrexone	20%	45%	35%	1.7:1	273	Zarontin <sup>D</sup>					
Behavior	26%	43%	31%	1.2:1	1027	Paxil	30%	33%	37%	1.3:1	374	Behavior	35%	45%	20%	0.6:1	148
Seizures	12%	33%	55%	4.7:1	675	Phenergan	29%	46%	24%	0.8:1	291	Seizures	19%	55%	26%	1.4:1	104
												Zolof	32%	33%	34%	1.1:1	434

BIOMEDICAL/ NON-DRUG/ SUPPLEMENTS	Parent Ratings					BIOMEDICAL/ NON-DRUG/ SUPPLEMENTS	Parent Ratings				
	Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>		Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>
Calcium <sup>E</sup>	2%	62%	35%	14:1	1871	Vitamin A	2%	59%	39%	19:1	990
Cod Liver Oil	4%	47%	49%	12:1	1389	Vitamin B3	4%	54%	41%	9.6:1	832
Cod Liver Oil with Bethanecol	10%	50%	40%	4.2:1	105	Vit. B6/Mag.	4%	48%	48%	11:1	6387
Colostrum	6%	56%	38%	6.3:1	516	Vitamin B12	5%	34%	62%	14:1	688
Detox. (Chelation) <sup>C</sup>	3%	24%	73%	25:1	627	Vitamin C	2%	56%	42%	17:1	2171
Digestive Enzymes	3%	39%	57%	18:1	1223	Zinc	2%	49%	49%	20:1	1736
DMG	8%	51%	42%	5.5:1	5601						
Fatty Acids	2%	43%	55%	23:1	995	<b>SPECIAL DIETS</b>					
5 HTP	13%	51%	36%	2.8:1	254	Candida Diet	3%	43%	55%	19:1	867
Folic Acid	4%	54%	43%	11:1	1792	Feingold Diet	2%	43%	55%	24:1	850
Food Allergy Trtmnt	3%	35%	62%	23:1	818	Gluten- /Casein- Free Diet	3%	32%	65%	20:1	2208
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy	6%	42%	52%	8.5:1	66	Removed					
Magnesium	6%	65%	29%	4.6:1	301	Chocolate	2%	48%	50%	29:1	1944
Melatonin	8%	29%	63%	7.7:1	896	Removed Eggs	2%	57%	41%	18:1	1290
MT Promoter	13%	48%	38%	2.9:1	52	Removed Milk					
NAET	4%	52%	44%	11:1	77	Products/Dairy	2%	48%	51%	32:1	6113
PSP (Vit. B6)	13%	37%	50%	4.0:1	418	Removed Sugar	2%	49%	49%	24:1	4014
Pepcid	11%	60%	29%	2.6:1	143	Removed Wheat	2%	48%	50%	28:1	3565
SAMe	17%	62%	21%	1.2:1	115	Rotation Diet	2%	48%	50%	21:1	881
St. Johns Wort	17%	68%	16%	0.9:1	127	Specific Carbo- hydrate Diet	7%	28%	66%	10:1	195
TMG	15%	43%	42%	2.9:1	683						
Transfer Factor	10%	51%	39%	3.9:1	142						

- A. “Worse” refers only to worse behavior. Drugs, but not nutrients, typically also cause physical problems if used long-term.  
 B. No. of cases is cumulative over several decades, so does not reflect current usage levels (e.g., Haldol is now seldom used).  
 C. Antifungal drugs and chelation are used selectively, where evidence indicates they are needed.  
 D. Seizure drugs: top line behavior effects, bottom line effects on seizures  
 E. Calcium effects are not due to dairy-free diet; statistics are similar for milk drinkers and non-milk drinkers.