

# 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 27,000 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>
Actos	19%	60%	21%	1.1:1	140	<u>Dilantin</u> <sup>D</sup>						Prolixin	30%	41%	28%	0.9:1	109
Aderall	43%	26%	31%	0.7:1	894	Behavior	28%	49%	23%	0.8:1	1127	Prozac	33%	32%	35%	1.1:1	1391
Amphetamine	47%	28%	25%	0.5:1	1355	Seizures	16%	37%	47%	3.0:1	454	Risperidal	21%	26%	54%	2.6:1	1216
Anafranil	32%	39%	29%	1.1:1	440	Fenfluramine	21%	52%	27%	1.3:1	483	Ritalin	45%	26%	29%	0.6:1	4256
Antibiotics	33%	50%	18%	0.5:1	2507	Haldol	38%	28%	34%	0.9:1	1222	<u>Secretin</u>					
<u>Antifungals</u> <sup>C</sup>						IVIG	7%	39%	54%	7.6:1	142	Intravenous	7%	50%	43%	6.4:1	597
Diflucan	5%	34%	62%	13:1	1214	<u>Klonopin</u> <sup>D</sup>						Transderm.	9%	56%	35%	3.9:1	257
Nystatin	5%	43%	52%	11:1	1969	Behavior	31%	40%	29%	0.9:1	270	Stelazine	29%	45%	26%	0.9:1	437
Atarax	26%	53%	21%	0.8:1	543	Seizures	29%	55%	16%	0.6:1	86	Steroids	34%	30%	36%	1.1:1	204
Benadryl	24%	50%	26%	1.1:1	3230	Lithium	22%	48%	31%	1.4:1	515	<u>Tegretol</u> <sup>D</sup>					
Beta Blocker	18%	51%	31%	1.7:1	306	Luvox	31%	37%	32%	1.0:1	251	Behavior	25%	45%	30%	1.2:1	1556
Buspar	29%	42%	28%	1.0:1	431	Mellaril	29%	38%	33%	1.2:1	2108	Seizures	14%	33%	53%	3.8:1	872
Chloral						<u>Mysoline</u> <sup>D</sup>						Thorazine	36%	40%	24%	0.7:1	945
Hydrate	42%	39%	19%	0.5:1	498	Behavior	41%	46%	13%	0.3:1	156	Tofranil	30%	38%	32%	1.1:1	785
Clonidine	22%	32%	46%	2.1:1	1658	Seizures	21%	55%	24%	1.1:1	85	Valium	35%	42%	24%	0.7:1	895
Clozapine	38%	43%	19%	0.5:1	170	Naltrexone	18%	49%	33%	1.8:1	350	Valtrex	8%	42%	50%	6.7:1	238
Cogentin	20%	53%	27%	1.4:1	198	Low Dose						<u>Zarontin</u> <sup>D</sup>					
Cylert	45%	35%	19%	0.4:1	634	Naltrexone	11%	52%	38%	4.0:1	190	Behavior	34%	48%	18%	0.5:1	164
<u>Depakene</u> <sup>D</sup>						Paxil	34%	32%	35%	1.0:1	471	Seizures	20%	55%	25%	1.2:1	125
Behavior	25%	44%	31%	1.2:1	1146	<u>Phenobarb.</u> <sup>D</sup>						Zoloft	35%	33%	31%	0.9:1	579
Seizures	12%	33%	55%	4.6:1	761	Behavior	48%	37%	16%	0.3:1	1125						
Desipramine	34%	35%	32%	0.9:1	95	Seizures	18%	44%	38%	2.2:1	543						

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>	3%	60%	36%	11:1	2832	Transfer Factor	8%	47%	45%	5.9:1	274
Cod Liver Oil	4%	41%	55%	14:1	2550	Vitamin A	3%	54%	44%	16:1	1535
Cod Liver Oil with						Vitamin B3	4%	51%	45%	10:1	1192
Bethanecol	11%	53%	36%	3.4:1	203	Vit. B6/Mag.	4%	46%	49%	11:1	7256
Colostrum	6%	56%	38%	6.8:1	851	Vitamin C	2%	52%	46%	20:1	3077
Detox. (Chelation) <sup>C</sup>	3%	23%	74%	24:1	1382	Zinc	2%	44%	54%	24:1	2738
Digestive Enzymes	3%	35%	62%	19:1	2350	<u>SPECIAL DIETS</u>					
DMG	8%	50%	42%	5.3:1	6363	Candida Diet	3%	39%	58%	21:1	1141
Fatty Acids	2%	39%	59%	31:1	1680	Feingold Diet	2%	40%	58%	26:1	1041
5 HTP	11%	42%	47%	4.2:1	644	Gluten-/Casein- Free Diet	3%	28%	69%	24:1	3593
Folic Acid	5%	50%	45%	10:1	2505	Low Oxalate Diet Removed	7%	43%	50%	6.8:1	164
Food Allergy Trtmnt	2%	31%	67%	27:1	1294	Chocolate	2%	46%	52%	28:1	2264
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy	5%	30%	65%	12:1	219	Removed Eggs	2%	53%	45%	20:1	1658
Magnesium	6%	65%	29%	4.6:1	301	Removed Milk Products/Dairy	2%	44%	55%	32:1	6950
Melatonin	8%	26%	66%	8.3:1	1687	Removed Sugar	2%	46%	52%	27:1	4589
Methyl B12 (nasal)	10%	45%	44%	4.2:1	240	Removed Wheat	2%	43%	55%	30:1	4340
Methyl B12 (subcut.)	6%	22%	72%	12:1	899	Rotation Diet	2%	43%	55%	23:1	1097
MT Promoter	8%	47%	44%	5.5:1	99	Specific Carbo- hydrate Diet	7%	22%	71%	10:1	537
PSP (Vit. B6)	11%	40%	48%	4.3:1	920						
Pepcid	11%	57%	32%	2.9:1	220						
SAMe	16%	62%	23%	1.4:1	244						
St. Johns Wort	19%	64%	18%	0.9:1	217						
TMG	16%	43%	41%	2.6:1	1132						

- 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.