

Differential Diagnosis for Autistic Disorder

Autistic Disorder must be differentiated from . . .	In contrast to Autistic Disorder, the other condition . . .
Rett's Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurs only in girls and includes characteristic features (e.g., deceleration in head growth, loss of hand movements, poor coordination).
Childhood Disintegrative Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows a period of at least 2 years of normal development and includes a loss of previously acquired skills.
Asperger's Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not have significant delay in language development.
Schizophrenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a <u>later age at onset</u> and includes characteristic features (e.g., delusions, hallucinations). In an individual with a history of Autistic Disorder or another Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Schizophrenia can be diagnosed only if there are prominent delusions or hallucinations.
Selective Mutism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is characterized by normal speech and social skills in certain situations.
Language Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves no qualitative impairment in social interaction, and the range of interests and behaviors is not restricted. A Language Disorder is not diagnosed if the criteria are met for a Pervasive Developmental Disorder.
Mental Retardation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves general impairment in intellectual functioning; frequently accompanies Autistic Disorder.

(continued)

Differential Diagnosis for Autistic Disorder (continued)

Autistic Disorder must be differentiated from . . .	In contrast to Autistic Disorder, the other condition . . .
Stereotypic Movement Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurs in the absence of impairment of social interaction and language development. Stereotypic Movement Disorder is not diagnosed if the stereotypy is part of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder.