

# AUTISM

## Vitamin A

One cause of autism may be a defect in a retinoid receptor protein (G-alpha protein) which is critical for language processing, attention and sensory perception; Evidence suggests natural vitamin A fixes this protein defect in autistics.<sup>1,2</sup>

## Vitamin D

High dose vitamin D therapy reversed autistic behaviors in severely deficient children; Maternal vitamin D deficiency may predispose children to autism.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

## Carnitine

Transports fatty acids into cells; Low carnitine (common in autism) impairs the ability to use fatty acids for learning and social development.<sup>6,7</sup>

## Zinc

Eliminates toxic mercury from brain tissue; Zinc/ copper ratio is particularly low in autistic kids; Low zinc impairs the protein (called metallothionein) that removes heavy metals from the body.<sup>8,9,10</sup>

## Magnesium

Cofactor for the neurotransmitters that affect social reactions and emotion; Autistics have low levels; Improves effectiveness of B6 therapy.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

## Folate

Oral folate therapy can resolve symptoms of autism in some cases, particularly in autistics with genes that impair folate dependent enzymes.<sup>31,32,33</sup>

## Vitamin B6

Cofactor the neurotransmitters serotonin and dopamine; Conversion of B6 to its active form is compromised in many autistics; Supplementation trials with B6 resulted in better eye contact, speech and fewer self-stimulatory behavior in autistics; Some consider B6 in combination with magnesium to be a breakthrough treatment for autism.<sup>14,15</sup>

## Glutamine

Blood levels of this amino acid which acts as a neurotransmitter are particularly low in autistics. Glutamine also helps prevent leaky gut syndrome, which can exacerbate autistic symptoms.<sup>28,29,30</sup>

## Vitamin B12

Low B12 impairs methylation (detoxification) which causes the neurological damage responsible for many autistic symptoms; Deficiency of B12 can cause optic neuropathy and vision loss in autistics; B12 raises cysteine and glutathione levels.<sup>16,17,18</sup>

## Vitamin C

Improved symptom severity and sensory motor scores in autistic patients possibly due to interaction with dopamine synthesis; Vitamin C also has a strong sparing effect on glutathione.<sup>26,27</sup>

## Glutathione & Cysteine

Commonly deficient in autistic patients, lack of these antioxidants impair detoxification and methylation processes; Low levels linked to neurological symptoms in autism which is often considered an oxidative stress disorder.<sup>21,22,23,24,25</sup>

## Vitamin B1

Deficiency linked to delayed language development; Supplementation may benefit autistic patients.<sup>19,20</sup>

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