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## Current Interventions of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Children

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### Message from the Guest Editor

The etiology and pathogenesis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are still a matter of speculation. ASD continues to be defined by observing behaviors and asking questions to caregivers. Nonetheless, developments in the understanding of gene–environment interactions are opening new research outlooks. However, even if the genetic component is substantial, the co-presence of several pre- and post-natal environmental factors is also being considered. The extensive variability of ASD is likely to be related to an interplay of genetic, epigenetic, and environmental factors. If knowledge of the causes and treatment of ASD is not yet compelling, it might be due to the reasons that gene–environment interactions have been poorly understood until now, and that decennial trends have been approached with unsuitable epidemiological instruments. Nevertheless, we now know that early behavioral interventions are critical for improving long-term outcomes, even if treatments for core symptoms of ASD are still lacking. Translating molecular and neurobiological knowledge into individualized interventions represents a key challenge for autism research.



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