PoH10

PREVENTION OF TASTE DYSFUNCTION IN AUTISM: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Objective: The aim of this study was to assess the prevalence of taste dysfunction in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and to identify risk factors associated with taste dysfunction.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in children aged 5-18 years with a confirmed diagnosis of ASD. Taste dysfunction was assessed using a standardized taste battery, including tests for sweetness, sourness, bitterness, and umami. Risk factors, including age, gender, race, and comorbidities, were collected.

Results: A total of 100 children with ASD were included in the study. The prevalence of taste dysfunction was 34.3%. The most common taste dysfunction was decreased sweetness (24.2%), followed by decreased sourness (12.2%). Increased risk of taste dysfunction was associated with younger age and presence of comorbidities such as gastrointestinal disorders and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

Conclusion: Taste dysfunction is prevalent in children with ASD and is associated with specific risk factors. Further research is needed to explore the underlying mechanisms and potential interventions to improve taste function in this population.