



## Medical Ignorance about Autism

Question: **Which terms apply to someone who claims to have expertise in a subject s/he has never studied?**

Answer: **Charlatan and Quack. Autism is not on the curriculum of any medical school.**

Psychiatrists are medical specialists who profess to diagnose Autism, a subject that is not on the curriculum of any medical school. Psychiatrists have created a false autism spectrum that has triggered an epidemic of misdiagnoses of autism.<sup>1</sup> 70% of those on this alleged spectrum are not autistic.<sup>2</sup>

Autism is a genetic neurological difference in how the brain processes information. There are 59,976 ABA therapists in the U.S. who purport to treat autism.<sup>3</sup> This is an impossibility. You cannot fix that which is not broken. Therapy cannot alter genetics. The autistic brain works in a precise way that cannot be altered.

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is an intensive program that attempts to improve social skills by increasing desirable behaviors and decreasing problem behaviors. ABA is oblivious to the cause of autistic behaviors. Nonverbal children cannot communicate that what they are being forced to do is impossible and painful. ABA therapy rewards autistic children to hide their pain and distress.<sup>4</sup>

There is a vocal community of adults with autism (many of whom had ABA as children) who say that ABA damages mental health and treats them as though they are a problem to be fixed. There is also a higher incidence of PTSD in autistic children who are exposed to ABA.<sup>5</sup> After repeated cycles in the classroom, autistic children develop PTSD because the program focuses on behavior and compliance, and not what the children are communicating with their behavior.<sup>6</sup>

ABA is based on the cruel premise of trying to make autistic people “normal”. Its message is that autistic ways of doing things are wrong and need to be corrected, and that the autistic child is broken and must be molded to be more palatable to non-autistic people. This misconception is destructive of the child’s identity and self-worth.<sup>7</sup>

ABA teaches autistic people that their needs are less important than pleasing other people. This makes autistic children overly compliant, leaving them vulnerable to manipulation and abuse. These children need to be taught how to express and get their needs met, not to be taught that their needs are less valid than the needs of people around them.

### References

1. **The autism spectrum fallacy.** Rowland D. *Journal of Neurology, Psychiatry and Brain Research* 2024;(01).
2. **Epidemic of false diagnoses of autism.** Rowland D. *Journal of Neurology, Psychiatry and Brain Research* 2023;(1)
3. **ABA therapist statistics.** Keshirim R. *SupportiveCareABA.com*, Sept. 13, 2024.
4. **Why ABA therapy is harmful to autistic people.** *AutisticSciencePerson.com*.
5. **Evidence of increased PTSD symptoms in autists exposed to applied behavior analysis.** Kuperstein H. *Advances in Autism*, 02 January 2018.
6. **Therapist neurodiversity collective.** Grant A. *Therapistndc.org*.
7. **Rebelling against a culture that values assimilation over individuality.** *NeurodivergentRebel.com*.