



Abstract: Developmental Language Disorders, are there connections between SLI and ASD?

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Children with developmental language disorders often exhibit comorbid conditions in addition to the features of their primary diagnosis. Recently, research has explored the extent to which some children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) also display specific language impairment (SLI). Conversely, some studies have examined whether children with SLI display impairments in social interaction abilities (albeit, less severe than in children with ASD). Comparative studies of SLI and ASD will be summarized with respect to language and cognitive profiles, neuroimaging results, and genetic research. In particular, findings from the presenter's ongoing research will be presented based on research with toddlers with ASD compared to late talking toddlers at risk for SLI, as well as school aged children with SLI and children with ASD. Finally, clinical implications with respect to differential diagnosis and treatment will be discussed.