

# PARENT RATINGS OF BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF BIOMEDICAL INTERVENTIONS

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The parents of autistic children represent a vast and important reservoir of information on the benefits—and adverse effects—of the large variety of drugs and other interventions that have been tried with their children. Since 1967 the Autism Research Institute has been collecting parent ratings of the usefulness of the many interventions tried on their autistic children.

The following data have been collected from the more than 26,000 parents who have completed our questionnaires designed to collect such information. For the purposes of the present table, the parents responses on a six-point scale have been combined into three categories: “made worse” (ratings 1 and 2), “no effect” (ratings 3 and 4), and “made better” (ratings 5 and 6). The “Better:Worse” column gives the number of children who “Got Better” for each one who “Got Worse.”

DRUGS	Parent Ratings					DRUGS	Parent Ratings					DRUGS	Parent Ratings				
	Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>		Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>		Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>
Aderall	43%	25%	32%	0.8:1	775	<b>Dilantin<sup>D</sup></b>						Prolixin	30%	41%	29%	1.1:1	105
Amphetamine	47%	28%	25%	0.5:1	1312	Behavior	28%	49%	23%	0.8:1	1110	Prozac	32%	32%	36%	1.1:1	1312
Anafranil	32%	38%	30%	0.9:1	422	Seizures	15%	37%	48%	3.3:1	433	Risperidal	20%	26%	54%	2.8:1	1038
Antibiotics	33%	53%	15%	0.5:1	2163	Felbatol	20%	55%	25%	1.3:1	56	Ritalin	45%	26%	29%	0.7:1	4127
<b>Antifungals<sup>C</sup></b>						Fenfluramine	21%	52%	27%	1.3:1	477	<b>Secretin</b>					
Diflucan	5%	38%	57%	11:1	653	Haldol	38%	28%	34%	0.9:1	1199	Intravenous	7%	49%	44%	6.3:1	468
Nystatin	5%	44%	50%	9.7:1	1388	IVIG	10%	44%	46%	4.5:1	79	Transderm.	10%	53%	37%	3.6:1	196
Atarax	26%	53%	22%	0.9:1	517	<b>Klonopin<sup>D</sup></b>						Stelazine	28%	45%	26%	0.9:1	434
Benadryl	24%	50%	26%	1.1:1	3032	Behavior	28%	42%	30%	1.0:1	246	Steroids	35%	33%	32%	0.9:1	132
Beta Blocker	17%	51%	31%	1.8:1	286	Seizures	25%	60%	15%	0.6:1	67	<b>Tegretol<sup>D</sup></b>					
Buspar	27%	45%	28%	1.0:1	400	Lithium	24%	45%	31%	1.3:1	463	Behavior	25%	45%	30%	1.2:1	1520
Chloral						Luvox	30%	37%	34%	1.1:1	220	Seizures	13%	33%	54%	4.0:1	842
Hydrate	41%	39%	20%	0.5:1	459	Mellaril	29%	38%	33%	1.2:1	2097	Thorazine	36%	40%	24%	0.7:1	940
Clonidine	22%	31%	47%	2.1:1	1525	<b>Mysoline<sup>D</sup></b>						Tofranil	30%	38%	32%	1.1:1	776
Clozapine	37%	44%	19%	0.5:1	155	Behavior	41%	46%	13%	0.3:1	149	Valium	35%	41%	24%	0.7:1	865
Clozapine	37%	44%	19%	0.5:1	155	Seizures	19%	56%	25%	1.3:1	78	Valtrex	6%	42%	52%	8.5:1	65
Cogentin	19%	54%	27%	1.4:1	186	Naltrexone	20%	46%	34%	1.8:1	302	<b>Zarontin<sup>D</sup></b>					
Cylert	45%	36%	20%	0.4:1	623	Paxil	33%	31%	36%	1.1:1	416	Behavior	35%	46%	19%	0.6:1	153
Deanol	15%	57%	28%	1.9:1	210	Phenergan	29%	46%	25%	0.9:1	301	Seizures	19%	55%	25%	1.3:1	110
<b>Depakene<sup>D</sup></b>						<b>Phenobarb.<sup>D</sup></b>						Zoloft	35%	33%	32%	0.9:1	500
Behavior	25%	43%	32%	1.3:1	1071	Behavior	47%	37%	16%	0.3:1	1109						
Seizures	11%	33%	56%	4.8:1	705	Seizures	18%	43%	39%	2.2:1	520						
Desipramine	34%	35%	31%	0.9:1	86												

BIOMEDICAL/ NON-DRUG/ SUPPLEMENTS	Parent Ratings					BIOMEDICAL/ NON-DRUG/ SUPPLEMENTS	Parent Ratings				
	Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>		Got Worse <sup>A</sup>	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases <sup>B</sup>
Calcium <sup>E</sup>	3%	62%	35%	14:1	2097	Transfer Factor	10%	48%	42%	4.3:1	174
Cod Liver Oil	4%	45%	51%	13:1	1681	Vitamin A	2%	57%	41%	18:1	1127
Cod Liver Oil with						Vitamin B3	4%	52%	43%	10:1	927
Bethanecol	10%	54%	37%	3.8:1	126	Vit. B6/Mag.	4%	48%	48%	11:1	6634
Colostrum	6%	56%	38%	6.1:1	597	Vitamin B12 (oral)	7%	32%	61%	8.6:1	98
Detox. (Chelation) <sup>C</sup>	3%	23%	74%	24:1	803	Vitamin C	2%	55%	43%	19:1	2397
Digestive Enzymes	3%	39%	58%	17:1	1502	Zinc	2%	47%	51%	22:1	1989
DMG	8%	51%	42%	5.4:1	5807	<b>SPECIAL DIETS</b>					
Fatty Acids	2%	41%	56%	24:1	1169	Candida Diet	3%	41%	56%	19:1	941
5 HTP	13%	47%	40%	3.1:1	343	Feingold Diet	2%	42%	56%	25:1	899
Folic Acid	4%	53%	43%	11:1	1955	Gluten- /Casein- Free Diet	3%	31%	66%	19:1	2561
Food Allergy Trtmnt	3%	33%	64%	24:1	952	Removed					
Hyperbaric Oxygen	5%	34%	60%	12:1	134	Chocolate	2%	47%	51%	28:1	2021
Therapy						Removed Eggs	2%	56%	41%	17:1	1386
Magnesium	6%	65%	29%	4.6:1	301	Removed Milk					
Melatonin	8%	27%	65%	7.8:1	1105	Products/Dairy	2%	46%	52%	32:1	6360
Methyl B12 (nasal)	15%	29%	56%	3.9:1	48	Removed Sugar	2%	48%	50%	25:1	4187
Methyl B12 (subcut.)	7%	26%	67%	9.5:1	170	Removed Wheat	2%	47%	51%	28:1	3774
MT Promoter	13%	49%	38%	2.9:1	61	Rotation Diet	2%	46%	51%	21:1	938
P5P (Vit. B6)	12%	37%	51%	4.2:1	529	Specific Carbo- hydrate Diet	7%	24%	69%	10:1	278
Pepcid	12%	59%	30%	2.6:1	164						
SAMe	16%	63%	21%	1.3:1	142						
St. Johns Wort	18%	66%	16%	0.9:1	150						
TMG	15%	43%	42%	2.8:1	803						

- A. “Worse” refers only to worse behavior. Drugs, but not nutrients, typically also cause physical problems if used long-term.  
 B. No. of cases is cumulative over several decades, so does not reflect current usage levels (e.g., Haldol is now seldom used).  
 C. Antifungal drugs and chelation are used selectively, where evidence indicates they are needed.  
 D. Seizure drugs: top line behavior effects, bottom line effects on seizures  
 E. Calcium effects are not due to dairy-free diet; statistics are similar for milk drinkers and non-milk drinkers.