

ABSTRACT

Previous research showed that patients with neurological diseases and psychiatric disorders had different qEEG patterns from the normal individuals, and the qEEG measurement could provide useful information about the brain abnormalities in the patient groups. Increasing evidence suggested that autism is related to some structural and functional abnormalities in the brain, but the pattern of abnormalities remained unclear. The present study investigated the qEEG spectral characteristics in a group of 24 Chinese autistic children (aged 5 to 13). Results showed that the autistic children had more slow wave and less alpha wave activities than the normal controls. Reduced alpha power was found in all cortical regions (frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital areas) whereas excessive delta power was found in the temporal and parietal areas. Bilateral and symmetrical abnormalities in the qEEG were also observed in the autistic group. These findings suggested that the autistic disorder may involve diffuse abnormalities in the brain.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

Abstract	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Table of Content	iii
List of Tables	v
List of Figures	vi
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
<i>The Nature of qEEG</i>	1
<i>Clinical Applications of qEEG</i>	4
<i>qEEG Studies in Autism</i>	7
Chapter 2 Method	11
<i>Participants</i>	11
<i>Materials</i>	12
<i>Procedure</i>	14
<i>Data Selection</i>	14
<i>Data Analyses</i>	15
Chapter 3 Results	16
<i>Spectral Profiles of Normal vs. Autistic Groups across Different Cortical Regions</i>	16
<i>Spectral Profiles of Normal vs. Autistic Groups between Left and Right Hemispheres</i>	24
<i>Gender Differences in Spectral Profiles of Normal Children</i>	31
<i>Discriminant Ability of the qEEG Measures</i>	32

Chapter 4 Discussion	34
References	40

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Demographic Characteristics for the Normal and Autistic Groups	12
Table 2	Spectral Profiles (Absolute Power) of Normal and Autistic Children across Different Cortical Regions	18
Table 3	Spectral Profiles (Relative Power) of Normal and Autistic Children across Different Cortical Regions	21
Table 4	Summary of Group Differences of Spectral Powers across Different Cortical Regions	22
Table 5	Spectral Profiles (Absolute Power) of Normal and Autistic Children between Left and Right Hemispheres	26
Table 6	Spectral Profiles (Relative Power) of Normal and Autistic Children between Left and Right Hemispheres	28
Table 7	Summary of Group Differences of Spectral Powers between Left and Right Hemispheres	29

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Mean differences of spectral powers of normal and autistic children across different cortical regions	22
Figure 2	Mean differences of spectral powers of normal and autistic children between left and right hemispheres	29