

Abstract

The paper reviews what is known about outcome in adult life for high functioning individuals within Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Only a handful of longitudinal studies on ASD exist in the literature. This paper focuses predominantly on the long-term follow-up the outcome in terms of the individuals' current diagnosis. A group of 44 adults with diagnosed high-functioning ASD in their childhood (Full Scale IQ or Verbal IQ is 75 or above) and had ever attended mainstream schools in Hong Kong had participated in the present study. The subjects had gone through a clinical diagnosis with a computerized procedure, The Developmental, Dimensional and Diagnostic Interview (3Di) (Skuse, Warrington, Bishop, Chowdhury, Lau, Mandy, & Place, 2004). Results indicated a significant maintenance of diagnosis of ASD over the years among this high-functioning population. Nevertheless, the impact of the intellectual functioning on the change of the core deficits associated with autism could not be confirmed.