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Genetics of Autism: Association of Chromosomal Fragile Sites

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KEY WORDS Autism; autosomal fragile sites; fragile X chromosome; genetic implications.

ABSTRACT Autism is a behavioural disorder in children with male predominance. The genetic basis of autism is now well established with twin and family studies. Association of autosomal fragile sites play an important role in the absence of any other genetic etiological factors. Fragile site at Xq27.3, which is a common defect among mentally retarded children also accounts for the major genetic etiological factor in autism. The genetic and clinical implication of Fragile X chromosome besides other chromosomal fragile sites with autism is discussed in the present study.

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