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 27,000 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: Got Worse[A]	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases[B]
Actos	19%	60%	21%	1.1:1	140
Aderall	43%	26%	31%	0.7:1	894
Amphetamine	47%	28%	25%	0.5:1	1355
Anafranil	32%	39%	29%	1.1:1	440
Antibiotics	33%	50%	18%	0.5:1	2507
Antifungals[C]					
Diflucan	5%	34%	62%	13:1	1214
Nystatin	5%	43%	52%	11:1	1969
Atarax	26%	53%	21%	0.8:1	543
Benadryl	24%	50%	26%	1.1:1	3230
Beta Blocker	18%	51%	31%	1.7:1	306
Buspar	29%	42%	28%	1.0:1	431
Chloral Hydrate	42%	39%	19%	0.5:1	498
Clonidine	22%	32%	46%	2.1:1	1658
Clozapine	38%	43%	19%	0.5:1	170
Cogentin	20%	53%	27%	1.4:1	198
Cylert	45%	35%	19%	0.4:1	634
Depakene[D]					
Behavior	25%	44%	31%	1.2:1	1146
Seizures	12%	33%	55%	4.6:1	761
Desipramine	34%	35%	32%	0.9:1	95
Dilantin[D]					
Behavior	28%	49%	23%	0.8:1	1127
Seizures	16%	37%	47%	3.0:1	454
Fenfluramine	21%	52%	27%	1.3:1	483
Haldol	38%	28%	34%	0.9:1	1222
IVIG	7%	39%	54%	7.6:1	142
Klonapin[D]					
Behavior	31%	40%	29%	0.9:1	270
Seizures	29%	55%	16%	0.6:1	86
Lithium	22%	48%	31%	1.4:1	515
Luvox	31%	37%	32%	1.0:1	251
Mellaril	29%	38%	33%	1.2:1	2108
Mysoline[D]					
Behavior	41%	46%	13%	0.3:1	156
Seizures	21%	55%	24%	1.1:1	85
Naltrexone	18%	49%	33%	1.8:1	350
Low Dose Naltrexone	11%	52%	38%	4.0:1	190
Paxil	34%	32%	35%	1.0:1	471
Phenobarb.[D]					
Behavior	48%	37%	16%	0.3:1	1125
Seizures	18%	44%	38%	2.2:1	543
Prolixin	30%	41%	28%	0.9:1	109
Prozac	33%	32%	35%	1.1:1	1391
Risperidal	21%	26%	54%	2.6:1	1216
Ritalin	45%	26%	29%	0.6:1	4256
Secretin					
Intravenous	7%	50%	43%	6.4:1	597
Transderm.	9%	56%	35%	3.9:1	257
Stelazine	29%	45%	26%	0.9:1	437
Steroids	34%	30%	36%	1.1:1	204
Tegretol[D]					
Behavior	25%	45%	30%	1.2:1	1556
Seizures	14%	33%	53%	3.8:1	872
Thorazine	36%	40%	24%	0.7:1	945
Tofranil	30%	38%	32%	1.1:1	785
Valium	35%	42%	24%	0.7:1	895
Valtrex	8%	42%	50%	6.7:1	238
Zarontin[D]					
Behavior	34%	48%	18%	0.5:1	164
Seizures	20%	55%	25%	1.2:1	125
Zoloft	35%	33%	31%	0.9:1	579

BIOMEDICAL/ NON-DRUG/ SUPPLEMENTS	Parent Ratings: Got Worse[A]	No Effect	Got Better	Better: Worse	No. of Cases[B]
Calcium[E]	3%	60%	36%	11:1	2832
Cod Liver Oil	4%	41%	55%	14:1	2550
Cod Liver Oil with Bethanecol	11%	53%	36%	3.4:1	203
Colostrum	6%	56%	38%	6.8:1	851
Detox. (Chelation)[C]	3%	23%	74%	24:1	1382
Digestive Enzymes	3%	35%	62%	19:1	2350
DMG	8%	50%	42%	5.3:1	6363
Fatty Acids	2%	39%	59%	31:1	1680
5 HTP	11%	42%	47%	4.2:1	644
Folic Acid	5%	50%	45%	10:1	2505
Food Allergy Trtmnt	2%	31%	67%	27:1	1294
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy	5%	30%	65%	12:1	219
Magnesium	6%	65%	29%	4.6:1	301
Melatonin	8%	26%	66%	8.3:1	1687
Methyl B12 (nasal)	10%	45%	44%	4.2:1	240
Methyl B12 (subcut.)	6%	22%	72%	12:1	899
MT Promoter	8%	47%	44%	5.5:1	99
P5P (Vit. B6)	11%	40%	48%	4.3:1	920
Pepcid	11%	57%	32%	2.9:1	220
SAMe	16%	62%	23%	1.4:1	244
St. Johns Wort	19%	64%	18%	0.9:1	217
TMG	16%	43%	41%	2.6:1	1132
Transfer Factor	8%	47%	45%	5.9:1	274
Vitamin A	3%	54%	44%	16:1	1535
Vitamin B3	4%	51%	45%	10:1	1192
Vit. B6/Mag.	4%	46%	49%	11:1	7256
Vitamin C	2%	52%	46%	20:1	3077
Zinc	2%	44%	54%	24:1	2738
SPECIAL DIETS					
Candida Diet	3%	39%	58%	21:1	1141
Feingold Diet	2%	40%	58%	26:1	1041
Gluten- /Casein-Free Diet	3%	28%	69%	24:1	3593
Low Oxalate Diet	7%	43%	50%	6.8:1	164
Removed Chocolate	2%	46%	52%	28:1	2264
Removed Eggs	2%	53%	45%	20:1	1658
Removed Milk Products/Dairy	2%	44%	55%	32:1	6950
Removed Sugar	2%	46%	52%	27:1	4589
Removed Wheat	2%	43%	55%	30:1	4340
Rotation Diet	2%	43%	55%	23:1	1097
Specific Carbo-hydrate Diet	7%	22%	71%	10:1	537

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.