

**Name of Study:** Brain Imaging Study of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

**Institution:** National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

**Location:** Bethesda, Maryland

**Eligibility Criteria:** Adults with Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder- Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), ages 18 through 40 years old, right-handed, having no metal in the body

**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Marta Gozzi

**Contact Information:** Dr. Marta Gozzi at (301) 435-6204 or [NIMH-ASD@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIMH-ASD@mail.nih.gov)

Researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health are seeking adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to participate in a brain imaging research study (Protocol: 10-M-0068, “Effects of Prosocial Neuropeptides on Human Brain Function in Healthy Volunteers and Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders”).

In this study, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) is used to investigate the effects of oxytocin and vasopressin on brain activity in adult healthy volunteers and adults with ASD. Right-handed individuals between 18 and 40 years of age who have been diagnosed with Autism, Asperger Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) may be eligible to participate.

This outpatient study will be conducted at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. There will be an initial screening appointment and 3 visits of about 2.5 hours each. During each visit, participants will receive a nasal spray containing either drug (vasopressin or oxytocin) or placebo (a solution containing no medication). After receiving the nasal spray, participants will be scanned while performing various computer-generated tasks.

The results of this study will provide information about the neural basis of social and emotional processing in ASD and help understand whether oxytocin and vasopressin may be relevant for the development and treatment of ASD.

There is no cost for participation. Compensation will be provided.

If you are interested please call 301-496-6807 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010) or e-mail [NIMH-ASD@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIMH-ASD@mail.nih.gov).

Sincerely,

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