

## Current Issues around Child and Adolescent Behaviors

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Recently, we face too many challenges about mental and behavioral problems of child and adolescent.

A lot of mental disorders occur in childhood or adolescence. Not only schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, neurotic disorders, such as obsessive compulsive disorder, social anxiety disorder, and eating disorders are also likely to occur during adolescent or young-adulthood. Methods for precise diagnosis and treatment for their diseases are developing, but not have been adequately established yet. For example, bipolar disorder is a chronic disease whose onset occurs in adolescence, but is often misdiagnosed [1]. Finding biomarkers, such as Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) for major depressive disorders [2], and utilizing them to diagnose patients rapidly, and give them a tailor-made treatment are desired.

Developmental disorder is also one of important themes of child and adolescent psychiatry. Developmental disorders are regarded as a congenital disease, whose cause is associated to some factors. Besides the maternal age, recent studies mention the effects of paternal age on risk of autism spectrum disorder, one of the developmental disorders [3-5]. Since tendency to marry later has advanced in developed countries, the mechanism of onset of developmental disorders is to be studied. On the other hand, the prevalence rate of the autistic spectrum disorders has changed drastically, as from the previous 0.04%; today's prevalence rate reaches nearly 1% [6]. It is doubtful that the increase of prevalence is explained by better recognition about this disease, and a tendency to marry later. We have to discuss how to set the standard of developmental disorder again, in addition to the investigation of biological etiology.

Moreover, how does nurturing environment affect the children's mental activity and behavior is under discussion. It is likely that, abnormal circumstances, such as severe abuse or neglect cause the child

anxiety, depression, or even PTSD [7]. However, the evidence about prevention of mental illnesses with a certain manners of nurture has not been obtained. Some politicians and specialists claim the necessity of traditional attitude of nurturing. Especially, arguments about the relationship between an aggressive behavior of a person and his or her familial environment tend to occur in legal contexts. But, we must be always scientific and politically neutral about this issue.

We are to discuss these complicated problems with biological, psychological, and sociological view. Every scientific opinion is welcomed. We are pleased to share new findings with a lot of scientists all over the world.

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