

Evidence Discussion (HD 4.0)

Autism Spectrum Disorders

- While the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder is based on behavioral signs and symptoms, MRI brain with and without contrast is indicated for new or worsening focal neurological findings and/or loss of developmental milestones and/or regression.¹ In these clinical situations, advanced imaging may be used to adjust a patient's treatment plan, without which their development may continue to regress.
- PET is considered not currently medically necessary in the evaluation of individuals with autism spectrum disorder² PET imaging in this scenario would unnecessarily expose patients to radiation and provide no clinical utility related to autism spectrum disorder.

References

1. Baker. Diagnosis and management of autism spectrum disorder in the era of genomics. *Pediatr Clin North Am*.
2. Zucher. A systematic review of molecular imaging (PET and SPECT) in autism. *Neuroscience And Biobehavioral Reviews*. 2015