

**ESPS Peer-review Report**
**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 11260

**Title:** Pathophysiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Revisiting Gastrointestinal Involvement and Immune Imbalance

**Reviewer code:** 00980173

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-05-12 13:57

**Date reviewed:** 2014-05-19 23:29

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	language polishing	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This review article by Samsam et al summarizes the data published about the role of various factors in the pathogenesis of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The authors discuss the role of abnormalities associated with gastrointestinal (GI) and immune system in the development of ASD. Based on the available information in the peer-reviewed literature, this review is of great significance and the information as presented is of broad interest to biologists and clinicians. Minor points: 1. The authors need to re-format their reference list. Many references are not formatted properly and contain superscripted numbers. 2. Authors may consider adding relevant references under sub-head "Non-genetic Factors Implicated in ASD" on page 7.

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**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 11260

**Title:** Pathophysiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Revisiting Gastrointestinal Involvement and Immune Imbalance

**Reviewer code:** 02528832

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-05-12 13:57

**Date reviewed:** 2014-05-20 00:04

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	language polishing	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this study authors make a revision of present knowledge about the relation of gastrointestinal immune alterations and autism. The purpose is ambitious, because the knowledge is fragmentary and many data are inconclusive/contradictory. In the first 5 pages authors properly define some concepts and revise the knowledge about genetic factors. Then the authors go on with the analysis of acquired factors, exposing firstly the epidemiological relation between gastrointestinal disorders and autism. This part –especially from lines 152 to 172 could be considerably shortened. True information really begins at line 173. I also suggest to shorten the review of the well known absorptive mechanisms of the intestinal mucosa, especially information contained between lines 205-256. Similarly, although some observations contained between lines 257-282 are interesting, overall this part could be also shortened underscoring those aspects more directly (possibly) involved/related to autism pathophysiology. I also feel that the text between lines 333-345 and the paragraph dealing with microbiota should be shortened. Information about neurotrophic factors and neurotransmitters does not belong to the conclusions of the work (lines 413-477). Moreover, the first two paragraphs of the conclusion section lack any content.