

# Could poor stomach absorption of drugs reduce autism medications' effectiveness?

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Recent research has revealed that many children and adults with autism experience gastrointestinal symptoms and that such symptoms can impact the absorption and availability of medications.

Because approximately 35% of people with [autism](#) take at least one psychotropic medication to help control their symptoms, the authors of a *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* commentary are calling for a formal evaluation of the potential relationship between gastrointestinal symptoms and the effectiveness of autism medications. Alternative modes of drug administration may be needed to provide more effective therapy for patients.

"Admittedly, there are a number of variables that can influence medication response but given how common gastrointestinal issues are for those with autism, it seems the relationship should be examined more closely," said senior author Dr. Maria Valdovinos.

**More information:** Heitzer, A. M., Job, M. A., Pandit, N. K. and Valdovinos, M. G. (2014), Should clinical trial research of psychotropic medication in autism control for gastrointestinal symptoms?. *Journal of Clinical Pharma*. [DOI: 10.1002/jcph.324](https://doi.org/10.1002/jcph.324)

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