

P-310 - PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION THERAPY FOR CHILDREN WITH HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM: A SINGLE-SUBJECT REPORT

A.S.Mohajeri, H.R.Pouretamad, O.Shokri

Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

As parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT; Eyberg et al, 1995) relies on social contingencies, it was assumed that it would not be appropriate for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Yet, many behaviors of children with high functioning autism (HFA) are reinforced by social attention. The purpose of this study was to investigate the efficacy of PCIT for young children (ages 2 to7) with HFA and behavioral problems. In this study an A-B single-subject experimental design across five subjects was used. Their behavioral problems were assessed by the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI) in each session. Findings demonstrate improvements in parental reports of child behavior for all participants following the implementation of PCIT especially through the second phase of the treatment. Clinical implications regarding the possible benefits of PCIT for improving the effectiveness of the program as well as limitations and future directions for research and treatment are discussed.