

# A Common Mechanism to the “Autisms”

## Abstract

Whether autism is a syndrome that can be subtyped is a question of clinical relevance given potential differences in regards to the natural history of the condition and possible therapeutic interventions. Statistical analysis has shown

a multiplicity of subgroups when only considering symptoms as variables. The story becomes more complicated when only taking into account syndromic autism cases and studying their reported brain findings. Syndromic cases do seem to exhibit a basic commonality in terms of migratory disturbances. Similar findings have also been described in idiopathic autism. If this were the case the clinical heterogeneity of autism could be due to variability in the genetic vulnerability of an individual, the presence of exogenous factors, as well as timing

during brain development that such exigencies may act (Triple Hit hypothesis). The proposed mechanism is of importance as it defines autism as a neurodevelopmental condition and helps identify possible risk factors based on their target of action.