

# Pain Perception and Sensory Modulation in Autism: A Literature Review

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## Abstract

The prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) has strikingly risen, currently reaching 2% of the child population. Sensory modulation disorder (SMD), is one of the ASD diagnostic criteria according to the DSM-5 and manifests behaviorally as either over- or under-responsiveness to daily sensations. As for the sensory system of pain, the widely held belief is that individuals with ASD are under-responsive to pain, based on the ASD common clinical presentation of stereotyped and self-injurious behavior. This review summarizes the current empirical knowledge on pain perception and its interplay with SMD in ASD. Further, The potential clinical contribution of occupational therapy intervention in this field of pain and SMD in ASD will be also discussed.

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