

POSTER 127

Violence on spectrum: the undefined behavioural limits of autism spectrum disorder

João Martins Correia¹, Maria João Alves¹

¹Department of Public Health and Forensic Sciences, and Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, 4200-319 Porto, Portugal.

*✉ mcorreia.joao@gmail.com

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Resumo

Introduction: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition, characterized by persistent difficulties in social interaction and communication and the presence of stereotypic behaviours, resistance to change or restricted interests [1]. It has been suggested that the prevalence of ASD in prisoners is higher when compared to the general population, so thus assuming an inherent violent behaviour [2]. **Objectives:** To present an overview of whether ASD directly correlates with violent criminal behaviour. **Methods:** A non-systematic literature review of the electronic database PubMed was conducted. **Results:** Most of the literature is based on single case reports or small case series describing individuals with ASD who have committed violent offenses. Even though some of these studies have suggested an increased violence risk in individuals with ASD, prevalence studies have provided no

conclusive evidence to support this suggestion [3]. Several follow-up studies have also considered that those with this diagnosis are no more likely to engage in violent criminal behavior, with some even suggesting that they may be less likely [4]. All data is therefore conflicted and surrounded by a substantial degree of inconsistency. **Conclusions:** There is a lack of evidence to support the link between violence and ASD. One explanation for the inconsistency of the findings could be the different methodological or diagnostic approaches used. A better understanding of the real association between ASD and violence, and the solid identification of risk factors for crime amongst this targeted population, could stimulate the application of measures to evaluate and prevent the potential involvement of these individuals with the criminal justice system.

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder; violence; criminal justice system

References:

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POSTER 128

Behavioural effects of MDMA on Zebrafish (*Danio Rerio*) Larvae – preliminary data

Ana Rita Cruz¹, Ondina Ribeiro², Luís Félix^{2,3,4}, Cláudia Ribeiro^{5,6}, João Soares Carrola^{2,3*}

¹University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD), Vila Real, Portugal.

²Centre for the Research and Technology of Agro-Environmental and Biological Sciences (CITAB), University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD), 5000-801 Vila Real, Portugal.

³Inov4Agro—Institute for Innovation, Capacity Building and Sustainability of Agri-Food Production, UTAD, 5000-801 Vila Real, Portugal.

⁴Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde (i3S), Laboratory Animal Science (LAS), Instituto de Biologia Molecular Celular (IBMC), Universidade do Porto (UP), 4200-135 Porto, Portugal.

⁵TOXRUN – Toxicology Research Unit, University Institute of Health Sciences, CESPU, CRL, 4585-116 Gandra, Portugal.

⁶Interdisciplinary Center of Marine and Environmental Research (CIIMAR), University of Porto, Edifício do Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, Matosinhos, Portugal.

*✉ joao@utad.pt

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Resumo

Introduction: The study of contaminants' effects on fish behavior is essential to the protection of ichthyofauna and