

# Priorities for Advancing Research on Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Co-Occurring Anxiety

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## **For which topic were research priorities identified?**

autism spectrum disorder and co-occurring anxiety

## **In which location was the research priority setting conducted?**

North America - USA

## **Why was it conducted at all?**

Research on anxiety disorders in youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has burgeoned in the past two decades. Yet, critical gaps exist with respect to measuring and treating anxiety in this population.

## **What was the objective?**

to identify the most important research priorities on co-occurring anxiety in Autism Spectrum Disorder

## **What was the outcome?**

a ranking list of 9 research topics

## **How long did the research prioritization take?**

No information provided.

## **Which methods were used to identify research priorities?**

meeting; survey

## **How were the priorities for research identified exactly?**

Step 1: workshop with nominal group technique: two groups (A and B) of participants, group A involved in first three steps of the nominal group technique and group B participated in the last step: group A generated an initial list of research priorities pertaining to anxiety in ASD through an online survey, survey asked participants to list: "What do you consider are major research priorities in the areas of anxiety measurement, neurobiology, and treatment?", group A was then asked to rank the priorities for each domain according to the order of importance, group A participated in a three-table round robin session to develop research questions for 9 priorities, group B then evaluated list of 9 priorities generated by group A: participants were asked to rate importance and then asked to rank the 9 priorities an to rate their feasibility

## **Which stakeholders took part?**

Researchers, clinicians with experience in ASD and anxiety, psychologists, psychiatrists. Group a participants: 33. Group b participants: 29.

## **How were stakeholders recruited?**

Group A (N=33) was a sample of convenience and was formed by sending a 'gauging interest' email to participants who attended the 2015 IMFAR Special Interest Group (SIG) on anxiety in ASD. Participants in Group A were from the United States and abroad, worked in academic and clinical programs with youth with ASD. Group B: Group B (N=29) was selected by the study authors.

## **Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?**

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.