P-352 - IMPACT OF PARENTAL AGE OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM: GREEK PILOT STUDY

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Introduction: The last decade the parents of autistic children have become objects of many controversial studies and theories. A lot of studies have revealed a positive relationship between father´s age and the incidence of neurodevelopmental disorders.
Objectives/aim: In the present study, we investigated the association between paternal age and an increased risk of autism in offspring.
Methods: Samples consist of 88 autism cases from the Children´s Health Center of Thessaly, Greece. Each case was matched with questionnaire on parental education, child´s gender, dominant hand, presence of seizures. Six categories of paternal age were created. The relationship between the variables was investigated using Cramer's V correlation coefficient and chi-square tests to explore the relationship between categorical variables. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences v. 18.0 (SPSS) was used.
Results: The data show a significant association between higher paternal ages and an increased risk of autism presented a strong, positive relation (Cramer´s v = 0.468; p=0.001< 0.05). An analysis of the combined effect of the incidence rates seizures (30%), offspring's gender (65.9%) male and (34.1%) female were found. In addition, the data shows the right hand is used (67%) more than the left (33%), furthermore the education also revealed that parents with higher education had an increased risk of having autistic children.
Conclusions: Our study provides evidence of the association of paternal age and risk of autism. However, the findings in our sample do not constitute a causal relationship but lay the foundations for thought and further research.

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