

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

29 May 2026

the effectiveness of pivotal response treatment on Improvement of question-asking in children with autism spectrum disorder: a single-subject design study

Protocol summary

Summary

The present study investigated the effectiveness of pivotal response treatment in children with autism spectrum disorder. Target population was all the children with autism spectrum disorder in Zafar Counseling and Treatment Institute for autism based in Tehran. Because this study sought special or abnormal cases, a purposive sampling method was utilized. Accordingly, three children, all less than six years old, were chosen. All the children were diagnosed by a specialist to have symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. A single-case study design type A-B was used. After establishing the baseline, during the 12-week intervention, question-asking was introduced to the participants using pivotal response treatment. Dependent variable (question-asking initiation progress) was closely observed and measured by two experimenters. In data analysis stage, after constructing the graphs, steady state, and graph trends, intra-situational and inter-situational analysis were conducted to investigate the effect of independent variable on the dependent variable. A visual inspection of the graphs indicated that the intervention had been effective for all the three cases. We expect to see improvement in question-asking in children with autism spectrum disorder after Intervention.

General information

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT2015040521615N1**

Registration date: **2015-04-29, 1394/02/09**

Registration timing: **retrospective**

Last update:

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2015-04-29, 1394/02/09

Registrant information

Name

Samad Azimi Garoosi

Name of organization / entity

University of Tehran

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 21 7734 4952

Email address

smd.azimi@ut.ac.ir

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Zafar Rehabilitation Institute

Expected recruitment start date

2014-10-23, 1393/08/01

Expected recruitment end date

2015-02-20, 1393/12/01

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

the effectiveness of pivotal response treatment on Improvement of question-asking in children with autism spectrum disorder: a single-subject design study

Public title

The effectiveness of the pivotal response treatment in children with autism: a single-subject design study

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria: being diagnosed as having symptoms of autism spectrum disorder by an specialist, based on DSM-5; age ranging between 3-6; having serious problems regarding social initiation. Exclusion criteria: being diagnosed as epileptic; suffering from cerebral palsy; suffering from secondary co-morbid disorders; non-cooperation of the participants; not being present at the sessions during the study.

Age

From **3 years** old to **6 years** old

Gender

Both

Phase

N/A

Groups that have been masked

No information

Sample size

Target sample size: **3**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

N/A

Randomization description

Blinding (investigator's opinion)

Not blinded

Blinding description

Placebo

Not used

Assignment

Single

Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee

Name of ethics committee

Ethics Committee of University of Isfahan-Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Street address

University of Isfahan, Hezar Jarib St, Azadi Sq, Isfahan.

City

Isfahan

Postal code

Approval date

2014-10-21, 1393/07/29

Ethics committee reference number

93/58257

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied

Autism Spectrum Disorder

ICD-10 code

F84.0

ICD-10 code description

Childhood autism

Primary outcomes

1

Description

Question-asking initiation

Timepoint

One week before and two weeks after intervention

Method of measurement

Observation by two raters

Secondary outcomes

empty

Intervention groups

1

Description

In this study a single-subject design was employed therefore, 3 participants during 12 sessions were instructed by pivotal response treatment.

Category

Treatment - Other

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Zafar Rehabilitation Center

Full name of responsible person

Hadi Zarafshan

Street address

Shahid Dastjerdi St, Vanak, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Zafar Rehabilitation Institute

Full name of responsible person

Hadi Zarafshan

Street address

Shahid Dastjerdi St, Vanak, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?

Yes

Title of funding source

Zafar Rehabilitation Institute

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

empty

Domestic or foreign origin

empty

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin

Type of organization providing the funding

empty

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

University of Tehran

Full name of responsible person

Samad Azimi Garoosi

Position

Ma student of psychology of children with special Needs

Other areas of specialty/work

Street address

Dr Kardan St. across Nasr Al. Jalal Al-Ahmad St. Chamran Hwy.

City

Tehran

Postal code

1445983861

Phone

+98 21882500625

Fax

Email

smd.azimi@ut.ac.ir smd.azimi@gmail.com

Web page address

Chamran Hwy.

City

Tehran

Postal code

1445983861

Phone

+98 21882500625

Fax

Email

smd.azimi@ut.ac.ir smd.azimi@gmail.com

Web page address

Person responsible for updating data

Contact

Name of organization / entity

university of tehran

Full name of responsible person

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+98 21882500625

Fax

+98 21 8825 4734

Email

smd.azimi@ut.ac.ir smd.azimi@gmail.com

Web page address

Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)

empty

Study Protocol

empty

Statistical Analysis Plan

empty

Informed Consent Form

empty

Clinical Study Report

empty

Analytic Code

empty

Data Dictionary

empty

Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

University of Tehran

Full name of responsible person

Samad Azimi Garoosi

Position

Ma student of psychology of Children with Special Needs

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Street address

Dr Kardan St. across Nasr Al. Jalal Al-Ahmad St.