

Between autism and schizophrenia

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INTRODUCTION:

Schizophrenia and autism are disturbance that were once considered the same entity, expressed in different periods of development. Even if the diagnoses have been separated for about 40 years, they **share many diagnostic and possibly etiological characteristics**.

The aim of this study is to review the borders between autism and schizophrenia, differentiating the two entities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Revision of bibliography that addresses the topic.

RESULTS:

None of the two diseases have their neuropsychiatric bases clarified. There are many similarities in the presentation of these entities, yet the current literature, shows distinct clinical patterns, liable to characterize two different entities.

DISCUSSION:

The lack of understanding of pathophysiological mechanisms of both conditions prevents a correct understanding of its borders and points of intersection. It is not possible to understand completely the meaning of clinical similarities and differences, in the way that they can represent convergence mechanisms of different etiologies, or divergent mechanism of the same etiological origin. It is however reported in the current literature, **differences in various areas** of research that justify its **clinical individualization**.

CONCLUSION:

Only the clarification of etiological bases allow clear separation of the two entities.

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