

Abstract

Background and Purpose: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can be detected at 2 years of age; however, many children are diagnosed later. This is concerning as diagnosis is often required to initiate intervention. This project aimed to evaluate the impact of interdisciplinary ASD rounds on decreasing the time from ASD concern to time of diagnostic clarity as well as to assess feasibility and provider satisfaction.

Methods: A pretest-posttest design was used to evaluate the effect of interdisciplinary rounds on the time to diagnostic clarity and provider satisfaction. The feasibility of the intervention was assessed using only a posttest measure.

Results: A baseline sample of 11 patients was collected via chart review and 6 patients were collected by provider selection during the intervention. While not statistically significant, 18.2% of patients in the baseline sample achieved diagnostic clarity as compared to 33.3% of the intervention sample (p value 0.467). A pre-intervention sample of 15 providers completed a satisfaction survey and post-intervention 10 providers completed both satisfaction and feasibility surveys. Teamwork and overall provider satisfaction demonstrated statistically significant improvements (p values .047 & .042 respectively). Feedback was positive on the feasibility survey.

Conclusions: It is unclear if interdisciplinary rounds were successful in decreasing the time needed to achieve diagnostic clarity. A greater percentage of participants in the intervention group achieved diagnostic clarity, but the difference was not statistically significant. A statistically significant improvement was found in overall provider satisfaction and provider teamwork, and positive feedback on feasibility survey suggests promise for implementation.

Implications: Interdisciplinary rounds may be an intervention to aid in decreasing the time to a diagnosis of ASD and utilize nurse practitioners to the full scope of their license given a lack of specialists available.

Additionally, these rounds may improve provider satisfaction which may in turn be protective to the workforce.

Keywords: Autism, ASD, Interdisciplinary, Rounds, Diagnostic Clarity