

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Tele-assessment of ASD in Toddlers TELE-ASD-PEDS



Jeffrey Hine, Ph.D., BCBA

Welcome! The workshop will begin soon...





Zachary Warren, Ph.D. VKC/TRIAD **Executive Director**



A. Pablo Juárez,

M.Ed., BCBA

VKC/TRIAD

Director





Amy Nicholson, M.A. SLPE VKC/TRIAD Director of **Research Staff**



Ph.D.

VKC/TRIAD

Associate

Director of

Research

Whitney Loring, Psy.D. **Director of Training**

Disabilities—Hope through Discovery







Laura Corona, Ph.D.

Caitlin Stone, Ph.D.



Liliana Wagner, Ph.D., BCBA



Nicholas Holt, Media Specialist



Kenna McConnell, **Project Manager**



Nina Harris, M.Ed. Family Services Coordinator Family Navigation Lead



Aislynn Kiser, M.Ed., BCBA **Program Lead Online** Education



Josh Wade, M.S., CEO Adaptive Technology



Nilanjan Sarkar, Ph.D. **Mechanical Engineering** Consulting, LLC Vanderbilt University Disabilities—Hope through Discovery Vanderbilt University



Agenda

- Development of models and tools for tele-assessment
- TELE-ASD-PEDS overview and video scoring examples
- Lesson learned, trouble-shooting, and questions



Training materials:

https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/tele-asd-peds

Manual:

https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/manuals/

Barriers to Ideal Plan

- We had problems before the pandemic
- "Wait-and-see" and "Screen-and-refer" no longer sufficient
- Models that meet families where they are and engage caregivers "in the meantime"
- Streamline services and empower parents





Tele-diagnostic Service Model



- Program designed to:
 - Streamline care
 - Rapidly identify ASD (or clearly rule out)
 - When clear/pressing issue for family
 - Not for those where more substantial evaluation is needed over time (family offered choice)

Triage

- Families enrolled in State's El
- ASD concerns identified



Triage

- Families enrolled in State's EI
- ASD concerns identified





Streamlined Telediagnostic Evaluation

• STAT

- Record review
- Caregiver Interview
- Structured behavior observations
- Feedback and next steps

• Home follow-up





Feasibility/Validity Results

- Remote psychologists provide an ASD diagnosis for 65% of children
- Rule out an ASD diagnosis in 22%
- Psychologists "certain" in 90% of cases
- All cases of ASD identified via telemedicine confirmed



Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-018-3524-y

ORIGINAL PAPER



Early Identification of ASD Through Telemedicine: Potential Value for Underserved Populations

A. Pablo Juárez^{1,2,3} · Amy S. Weitlauf^{1,2} · Amy Nicholson^{1,2} · Anna Pasternak^{1,2} · Neill Broderick^{1,2} · Jeffrey Hine^{1,2} · J. Alacia Stainbrook^{1,2} · Zachary Warren^{1,2,3,4}

Short report	autism
Measuring the service system impact of a novel telediagnostic service program for young children with autism spectrum disorder	Autism 1-6 © The Author(s) 2018 Reprints and permissions: sagepub.co.uk/journals/Permissions.nan DOI: 10.1177/1362361318787797 journals.sagepub.com/home/aut ©SAGE

J Alacia Stainbrook, Amy S Weitlauf, A Pablo Juárez, Julie Lounds Taylor, Jeffrey Hine, Neill Broderick, Amy Nicholson and Zachary Warren

TELE-SUPPORT, RESEARCH, & SERVICE

We have found:

- It is feasible and valid to use an abbreviated autism evaluation process
- *Families* highly prefer telemedicine services over traveling
- Increasing the number of families we serve (more referrals, but less to tertiary center)
- Decreasing wait times
- Save *families* time/financial costs
- Start intervention for *families* faster

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-018-3524-y

ORIGINAL PAPER

Early Identification of A for Underserved P

A. Pablo Juárez^{1,2,3} J. Alacia Stainbrog

She

Mea of a no program autism spectro

What if we cannot have a trained provider on the other side?

We have found:

J Alacia Stainbrook, Amy S Weitlauf, A Pablo Lounds Taylor, Jeffrey Hine, Neill Broderick, Amy Nicholson Zachary Warren

TELE-SUPPORT, RESEARCH, & SERVICE

d valid to use an '''ation

> osts. Inties

ine

Geography is not our only barrier in care...



...we are fundamentally limited by tools we have

- · Tests/trainings that are expensive protected intellectual property
- Tests that are lengthy
- · Tests that are old, developed decades prior
- · New tests with methodological flaws of data capture / processing
- Remote procedures that actually increase provider demand rather than lessen (2 providers for 1 visit)
- · Tests that are not explicitly designed for the population and setting

"Can Novel Telemedicine Tools Reduce Disparities Related to Early Identification of Autism?"

- Designed for use by during a telemedicine-based assessment
- Designed for open and free use
- Uses widely available/cheap materials
- Time-sensitive
- Play-based procedures could be performed by novel users



Parent (or non-specialist) is walked through a set of play tasks that can be modified, repeated as needed

JKL

JEL

014.47

fn ⊳

(1) 日

Approach: Part 1

- Clinical database containing data from toddlers' ASD evaluations
- Application of machine learning

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04857-x

ORIGINAL PAPER

Toward Novel Tools for Autism Identification: Fusing Computational and Clinical Expertise

Laura L. Corona^{1,2} · Liliana Wagner^{1,2} · Joshua Wade³ · Amy S. Weitlauf^{1,2} · Jeffrey Hine^{1,2} · Amy Nicholson^{1,2,4} · Caitlin Stone^{1,2} · Alison Vehorn¹ · Zachary Warren^{1,2,4,5}

Accepted: 19 December 2020

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Media, LLC part of Springer Nature 2021



7 Key Behavioral Observations



Socially Directed Speech & Sounds



Unusual or Repetitive Body Movements

Frequent and Flexible Eye Contact



Combines gestures, eye contact, vocalization



Unusual Vocalizations

Unusual or Repetitive Play





Unusual Sensory exploration/reaction

ASD DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria

NEED ALL 3

Social Communication

- Social-Emotional Reciprocity
- Nonverbal Communication
- Relationships and Play

ASD

Restricted, Repetitive Behaviors

NEED 2 OF 4

- Stereotyped Behavior
- Insistence on Sameness (e.g., inflexible routines/rituals)
- Restricted Interests
- Sensory Differences

ASD Symptoms

Social Communication

• Absence of (or reduced) expected behaviors

RRBI Presence of atypical or unusual behaviors

Seven Key Behaviors

- 1. Socially directed speech/sounds
- 2. Frequent and flexible eye contact
- 3. Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/vocalization
- 4. Unusual vocalizations
- 5. Unusual or repetitive play
- 6. Unusual or repetitive body movements
- 7. Unusual sensory exploration or reaction



Seven Key Behaviors

- 1. Socially directed speech/sounds
- 2. Frequent and flexible eye contact
- 3. Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/vocalization
- 4. Unusual vocalizations
- 5. Unusual or repetitive play
- 6. Unusual or repetitive body movements
- 7. Unusual sensory exploration or reaction





TELE-ASD-PEDS Rating Form

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Dichotomous score: Is the symptom present or not (1 vs. 3)

Likert score: 1 = symptom not present; 2 = symptom present but at subclinical levels; 3 = symptom obviously consistent with AS

Item		1		2	3		Dichoto- mous 1/3	Likert 1/2/3
Socially directed speech and sounds Goild often uses words or other vocalizations for a variety of social purposes (e.g. requesting, protesting, directing attention, shar ig enjoyment).		Inconsistent socially d	irected speech.	Most of the child's sounds are self-directed. May make atypical non-word noises (e.g., "digga digga").		3	3	
Frequent and flexible eye contact	Child Leque others ind a	ently makes eye contact with across a variety of activities.	Child's eye contact se seems less flexible and expected.	ems inconsistent. Gaze d harder to catch than	Child infrequently makes e only make eye contact dur (e.g., asking for help).	ye contact. Might ing one activity	3	2
Unusual vocalizations	No unus al o observec M appropriate developn er	qualities of speech/language lost of child's speech is for the child's age and ntal level.	Speech is not clearly u are some differences (repetitive quality of sp unclear echoing, some that are unusual).	inusual, but there e.g., volume, slight beech/language, e occasional sounds	Child produces unusual jar or speech/language (e.g., jargoning, speech of pecul unusual sounds, repetitive echoing or repetitive speec	gon, sounds, undirected iar intonation, vocalizations, ch/language.	3	3
Unusual or repetitive play	Child play v (uses toys as	with toys in appropriate ways s expected).	Child's play is not clea is strongly focused on or activities. May some child's attention to sor	rly unusual, but child some toys, routines, etimes be hard to shift nething new.	Child shows clearly repetiti play, such as repeatedly pu watching how objects mov up, or scrambling/dropping	ive or unusual ushing buttons, e, lining things g toys.	1	2
Unusual or repetitive body movements	No unusu I seen.	or repetitive body movements	Unclear unusual/repet Some repetitive jumpi posturing of fingers, h not clearly atypical.	itive body movements. ng or very brief ands, or arms that is	Child clearly shows unusua (e.g., hand-flapping, postu upper body, toe-walking, fi hand/finger mannerisms) re walking/spinning/jumping.	l or repetitive ring or tensing acial grimacing, epetitive running/	3	3
Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/ vocalization	Child freque gesture : to are uscally c eye contact.	ently points and uses other communicate. Child's gestures combined with vocalizations and	Child may sometimes gestures, but less thar not always look at you when gesturing.	point or use other expected. Child does or make a sound	Child does not usually gest communicate. May sometri point, but does not usually with eye gaze or sounds. N hand or push on your body	ture to mes reach or combine these flay move your y to get help.	3	3
Unusual sensory exploration or reaction		Unclear sensory explo have a brief response how something feels o	ration or reaction. May to a sound, smell, or or moves.	Child shows sensory differences. May closely inspect objects, overreact to sounds, show intense interest or dislike to textures (e.g., touching, licking, biting, refusing to touch specific toys), or clear self-injurious behavior.		1	2	
Asu if for u to choose?		Did you recommend in person evaluation for diagnostic clarification?	Ho	ow certain are you of yo	our diagnostic impression?	24		Total Score
 Present 		Yes ●No	Completely uncertain	Somewhat uncertain	Somewhat certain	Completely certain		18
Diagnosis issued: Autism Spectrum Disorder		ctrum Disorder F84.0						

TELE-ASD-PEDS - Administration

- Parent is walked through a set of play tasks that can be modified, repeated as needed for clinician to make meaningful observations.
- Tasks include:
 - Toy play (child-directed, parent-directed, ignore)
 - Responding to social bids (name, joint attention)
 - Physical/social play (peekaboo, chasing, tickling)
 - "Ready-set-go" play (balloons, balls, cars)
 - Requesting (container with snack, sticker, bubbles, or toy)



Approach

- Created behavioral descriptors
- Created 3-point rating system
 - 1 = symptom not present
 - 2 = present but subclinical
 - 3 = clear evidence of ASD
- Set of administration tasks to best elicit observations

Child age: ____mos Gender: IM OF

TELE-ASD-PEDS Rating Form

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

----+ (1 vs 3)

em		1		2	3		Dici. to- mo: s	Likert 1/2/3
Socially directed speech and sounds	ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch c		Child onen compareds or other vocalizations for a variety of social purposes (e.g. requesting, protesting, directing attention, sharing enjoyment).		Most of the sounds May make atypical non-w "digga digga").	are self-directed. ord noises (e.g.,	3	3
Frequent and flexible eye contact	Child freque others and a	ntly makes eye contact with cross a variety of activities.	Child's eye contact se seems less flexible and expected.	ems inconsistent. Gaze d harder to catch than	Child infrequently makes only make eye contact du (e.g., asking for help).	eye contact. Might ring one activity	3	2
Unusual vocalizations	No unusual qualities of speech/language observed. Most of child's speech is appropriate for the child's age and developmental level.		Speech is not clearly u are some differences (repetitive quality of sp unclear echoing, some that are unusual).	unusual, but there (e.g., volume, slight peech/language, e occasional sounds	Child produces unusual ja or speech/language (e.g., jargoning, speech of pecu unusual sounds, repetitive echoing or repetitive spec	rgon, sounds, undirected Iliar intonation, vocalizations, ech/language.	3	3
Unusual or repetitive play	ual or Child plays with toys in appropriate ways (uses toys as expected).		r Child plays with toys in appropriate ways (uses toys as expected). Child's play is not clearly unusual, but child is strongly focused on some toys, routines, or activities. May sometimes be hard to shift child's attention to something new. Child shows clearly unusual, but child shows clearly play, such as repervational or activities. The something new of the som		Child shows clearly repeti play, such as repeatedly p watching how objects mo up, or scrambling/droppir	tive or unusual oushing buttons, ve, lining things ng toys.	1	2
Unusual or repetitive body movements	Unusual or petitive body novements		Unclear unusual/repetitive body movements. Some repetitive jumping or very brief posturing of fingers, hands, or arms that is not clearly atypical.		Child clearly shows unusu (e.g., hand-flapping, post upper body, toe-walking, hand/finger mannerisms) walking/spinning/jumping	al or repetitive uring or tensing facial grimacing, repetitive running/ J.	3	3
Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/ vocalization	Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/ vocalization		Child may sometimes gestures, but less thar not always look at you when gesturing.	point or use other n expected. Child does 1 or make a sound	Child does not usually ge communicate. May somet point, but does not usuall with eye gaze or sounds. hand or push on your boo	sture to times reach or y combine these May move your dy to get help.	3	3
Unusual sensory exploration or reaction	Unusual sensory exploration or reaction		Unclear sensory explo have a brief response how something feels o	ration or reaction. May to a sound, smell, or or moves.	Child shows sensory differences. May closely inspect objects, overreact to sounds, show intense interest or dislike to textures (e.g., touching, licking, biting, refusing to touch specific toys), or clear self-injurious behavior.		1	2
ASD if forced to choose? Did you recommend in person evaluation for		Но	ow certain are you of yo	our diagnostic impression?			Total Score	
Onsure diagnostic clarification? Present Yes No		0 1 Completely uncertain	2 Somewhat uncertain	3 Somewhat certain	 4 Completely certain 		18	

TELE-ASD-PEDS – Scoring

Current use suggests that children who score 11 or higher on the TELE-ASD-PEDS are considered "at risk" for ASD

 Children with <u>></u>5 items with rating of 3 are considered "very high-risk"

Diagnosis is never be based on a single score

DSM-5 Checklist with Developmental Anchors

NOTE: This checklist is merely a tool for facilitating diagnosis specific to ASD in young children. This is not an exhaustive or exclusive list of developmental behavioral markers that rise to the level of clinical significance within these specific ASD related domains.

Cluster A: Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction: Deficits and impairment must be present in <u>all three</u> symptom domains

DSM-5 Symptom	Developmental Markers (mark "O" for Observed and "R" for Reported)
Deficits in social reciprocity	<u>O/R</u> Limited showing, directing attention, sharing of enjoyment/attention with others <u>O/R</u> Does not frequently initiate interactions with others <u>O/R</u> Inconsistent response to social bids of others <u>O/R</u> Inconsistent response to name or attempts to get attention <u>O/R</u> Limited sharing or back-and-forth play <u>O/R</u> Focused language or communication on particular interests
Atypical nonverbal social behavior	<u>O/R</u> Atypical or inconsistent eye gaze <u>O/R</u> Limited index pointing <u>O/R</u> Limited conventional gesture use (e.g., head shaking/nodding, waving, reaching) <u>O/R</u> Limited other gesture use (e.g., emphasizing, miming, pretend) <u>O/R</u> Physical direction of others (e.g., leading, hand as a tool use) <u>O/R</u> Challenges communicating wants and needs <u>O/R</u> Limited range of directed facial expressions (e.g., extremes only)
Deficits in maintaining relationships	<u>O/R</u> Limited or inconsistent interest in peer interaction and play <u>O/R</u> Limited or inconsistent skills participating in interactive games with siblings/adults <u>O/R</u> Challenges appreciating basic social/safety rules <u>O/R</u> Limited or inconsistent response to approach of novel peers and adults <u>O/R</u> Limited spontaneous initiation of play/ interaction <u>O/R</u> Limited imitative and pretend play

Cluster B: Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities: Deficits and impairment in <u>two</u> of the following four domains

DSM-5 Symptom	Developmental Markers (mark "O" for Observed and "R" for Reported)
Stereotyped, repetitive, idiosyncratic speech; motor stereotypes; repetitive use of objects	Speech/language: O/R Echolalia, scripting O/R Atypical Jargoning (undirected speech, peculiar vocalizations) O/R Idiosyncratic speech (pronominal reversal, neologisms) Motor stereotypies: O/R Body/hand/finger mannerisms/posturing (e.g., hand-flapping, tensing, finger/ear-flicking, hand/finger inspection, rocking, spinning, repetitive clapping, toe-walking, facial grimacing) Objects: O/R Repetitive use of objects (e.g., lining-up, organizing, stacking, spinning, dropping, repeated
Excessive adherence to nonfunctional routines	activation, interest in parts of objects) <u>O/R</u> Requires activities performed in exact same way (e.g., requires caretakers to say things in certain order, motor rituals) <u>O/R</u> Distresses surrounding changing routine (e.g., placement of objects in house, change in physical appearance to others, driving route, order of daily activities, food presentation) <u>O/R</u> Carries out specific sequence in play or other activities <u>O/R</u> Insistence on sameness (e.g., extreme reaction to changes)
Atypical sensory behavior (hypo or hyper-sensitivity or interest)	<u>O/R</u> Visual interest/ inspection <u>O/R</u> Noise sensitivity <u>O/R</u> Atypical pain threshold / strong interest in physical stimulation <u>O/R</u> Sensory aversions (smells, textures, touch, daily routine challenges) <u>O/R</u> Sensory seeking behavior (sights, smells, mouthing, loud noises, tactile interests)
Restricted/Fixated interests	<u>O/R</u> Requires certain objects to be on his/her person at all times <u>O/R</u> Focused repetitive play (e.g., sorting/stacking/lining-up objects) <u>O/R</u> Unusual interests in objects (e.g., appliances, fans, mirrors, shiny objects, etc.) <u>O/R</u> Intense/rigid focal interests (e.g., cars, trains, specific videos, vacuums)

Cluster A: Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction: Deficits and impairment must be present in <u>all three</u> symptom domains

DSM-5 Symptom	Developmental Markers (mark "O" for Observed and "R" for Reported)
Deficits in social reciprocity	<u>O/R</u> Limited showing, directing attention, sharing of enjoyment/attention with others <u>O/R</u> Does not frequently initiate interactions with others <u>O/R</u> Inconsistent response to social bids of others <u>O/R</u> Inconsistent response to name or attempts to get attention <u>O/R</u> Limited sharing or back-and-forth play <u>O/R</u> Focused language or communication on particular interests
Atypical nonverbal social behavior	O/R Atypical or inconsistent eye gaze O/R Limited index pointing O/R Limited conventional gesture use (e.g., head shaking/nodding, waving, reaching) O/R Limited other gesture use (e.g., emphasizing, miming, pretend) O/R Physical direction of others (e.g., leading, hand as a tool use) O/R Challenges communicating wants and needs O/R Limited range of directed facial expressions (e.g., extremes only)
Deficits in maintaining relationships	O/R Limited or inconsistent interest in peer interaction and play O/R Limited or inconsistent skills participating in interactive games with siblings/adults O/R Challenges appreciating basic social/safety rules O/R Limited or inconsistent response to approach of novel peers and adults O/R Limited spontaneous initiation of play/ interaction O/R Limited imitative and pretend play

Cluster B: Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities: Deficits and impairment in <u>two</u> of the following four domains

DSM-5 Symptom	Developmental Markers (mark "O" for Observed and "R" for Reported)
Stereotyped, repetitive, idiosyncratic speech; motor stereotypes; repetitive use of objects	Speech/language: O/R Echolalia, scripting O/R Atypical jargoning (undirected speech, peculiar vocalizations) O/R Idiosyncratic speech (pronominal reversal, neologisms) Motor stereotypies: O/R Body/hand/finger mannerisms/posturing (e.g., hand-flapping, tensing, finger/ear-flicking, hand/finger inspection, rocking, spinning, repetitive clapping, toe-walking, facial grimacing) Objects: O/R Repetitive use of objects (e.g., lining-up, organizing, stacking, spinning, dropping, repeated activation, interest in parts of objects)
Excessive adherence to nonfunctional routines	O/R Requires activities performed in exact same way (e.g., requires caretakers to say things in certain order, motor rituals) O/R Distresses surrounding changing routine (e.g., placement of objects in house, change in physical appearance to others, driving route, order of daily activities, food presentation) O/R Carries out specific sequence in play or other activities O/R Insistence on sameness (e.g., extreme reaction to changes)
Atypical sensory behavior (hypo or hyper-sensitivity or interest)	O/R Visual interest/ inspection O/R Noise sensitivity O/R Atypical pain threshold / strong interest in physical stimulation O/R Sensory aversions (smells, textures, touch, daily routine challenges) O/R Sensory seeking behavior (sights, smells, mouthing, loud noises, tactile interests)
Restricted/Fixated interests	O/R Requires certain objects to be on his/her person at all times O/R Focused repetitive play (e.g., sorting/stacking/lining-up objects) O/R Unusual interests in objects (e.g., appliances, fans, mirrors, shiny objects, etc.) O/R Intense/rigid focal interests (e.g., cars, trains, specific videos, vacuums)

TAP Manual



Manual:

https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/ manuals/

Training webinars:

https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/teleasd-peds

Appointment Structure

- Children 3 and under
 - Visits scheduled for 90 minutes (Zoom)
- 1. Interview, unstructured observations
- 2. TELE-ASD-PEDS (15-20 min)
- 3. Additional measures (VABS-3 Comm/Soc, DAYC-2, CARS-2)
- 4. Feedback/diagnosis/resources

Preparing families for telehealth visits

- Start during scheduling phone calls
- Share resources (online/written) in advance
- Spend time at the beginning of the visit orienting families to the process
 - What will the appointment include?
 - What will you, the clinician, be looking for?
 - What are the possible outcomes of this appointment?

Before your appointment:

- Familiarize yourself with the Zoom instructions (attached to this email). Think about which device
 you will use (phone, tablet, etc.) and where you can place it in the room so that you can be
 hands-free to play. Please reach out to us with any questions.
- Think about a room you can use to play with your child and chat with us that is as free from distractions as possible (e.g., TV, tablets, siblings). We realize that not all distractions can be avoided all the time!
- Find 5 or 6 toys and set them aside in the room you intend to use (on a table or in a container). Examples of toys include shape sorters, musical toys, puzzles, vehicles, pretend play toys, balls, or anything else that your child loves to play with. Please avoid the use of phones or tablets. We will also need a clear Tupperware with a lid (or similar container with a lid) with a snack in it that your child likes.

What to expect during the appointment:

- The clinician will talk with you about your concerns, ask questions about your child's
 development and medical history, and ask you to observe, interact, and play with your child.
- The activities are designed so that we can observe how your child communicates and interacts with you and plays.
- Some of these activities will probably feel different from the way you normally interact with your child at home—or even a little silly.
- The clinician will ask you to use specific words or movements so that we can observe specific behaviors and interactions.
- If we have trouble seeing or hearing you or your child clearly, we may ask you to tell us what your child said or where he/she was looking.
- The clinician will give you feedback regarding the evaluation before the end of the meeting.

We look forward to "seeing" you soon!

General Guidelines

- Instructions, materials, and tasks can be modified as needed
- Discourage use of technology during assessment
- Trials for tasks can be discontinued or administered later if a child loses interest
- Clinician may ask caregiver for observations (e.g., eye contact, words, vocalizations)

TELE-ASD-PEDS & COVID-19



Use of the TAP at VUMC: Direct-to-home

- 9 providers
- 204 children (3.5 months early pandemic)
- TAP provided enough information when ASD is clearly present (>70%)
 - High levels of diagnostic certainty
 - TAP scores significantly differentiating those with/without ASD



Wagner, L., Corona, L. L., Weitlauf, A. S., Marsh, K. L., Berman, A. F., Broderick, N. A., Francis, S., Hine, J., Nicholson, A., Stone, C., & Warren, Z. (2020, 2020/10/30). Use of the TELE-ASD-PEDS for Autism Evaluations in Response to COVID-19: Preliminary Outcomes and Clinician Acceptability. Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.

Evaluation Outcomes-VUMC

Clinician Diagnostic Impression	N (%)	Further Testing Recommended (% Yes)	Clinician Diagnostic Certainty*
ASD Present	145 (71%)	6%	3.77 (0.46)
ASD Suspected	14 (7%)	100%	2.50 (0.65)
Diagnosis Unclear	22 (11%)	100%	2.09 (0.61)
ASD Absent	23 (11%)	48%	2.83 (0.72)

*Clinicians rated diagnostic certainty on a Likert scale, ranging from 4 = completely certain, to 1 = completely uncertain.

Evaluation Outcomes-VUMC

Clinician Diagnostic Impression	N (%)	TAP Score M(SD)
ASD Present	145 (71%)	17.96 (2.36)
ASD Suspected	14 (7%)	15.14 (2.45)
Diagnosis Unclear	22 (11%)	12.32 (1.52)
ASD Absent	23 (11%)	9.96 (1.64)

Caregiver Feedback

	Very True	Somewhat True	Not True	N/A
Before I started the visit, I understood what I would be doing.	80%	20%	-	-
The instructions given by the psychologist were easy to follow.	86%	7%	-	7%
The activities got my child to show the behaviors I am concerned about.	72%	23%	5%	-
It was comfortable for me to play with my child as part of the evaluation.	84%	9%	7%	-
I would recommend participating in a telehealth evaluation to others.	81%	14%	5%	-

External Providers

- 202 providers completed survey regarding ASD tele-assessment and the TAP.
 - Licensed psychologists, medical providers, SLPs, behavior analysts, school psychologists, trainees
 - 96% reported expertise in the assessment of children age 0-3.

Wagner, et al 2021. Transitioning to telemedicine during COVID-19: Impact on perceptions and use of telemedicine procedures for the diagnosis of autism in toddlers. JADD

Challenges

- Technology Thinking of physical space and camera placement/operators becomes critical.
- Parents following prompts from the provider
- Distractions in the home
- Complexity -
 - Language
 - Medical complexity
 - Significant developmental delays
 - Comorbidity

What about the Clinical Trial?

Can Novel Telemedicine Tools Reduce Disparities Related to Early Identification of Autism (NIMH 1R21MH118539-01)





Study Design

- Participants were randomized to receive either:
 - ► TELE-STAT or
 - ► TELE-ASD-PEDS (TAP)



- Tele-assessment was immediately followed by traditional inperson diagnostic evaluation
- Families received feedback after in-person evaluation only

Participants

- N = 144 toddlers
- Child mean age = 2.52 years
 - (SD = 0.33; Range = 16-36 months)

Caregivers were primarily mothers (85%) or fathers (9%)

Diagnostic accuracy

Clinical Diagnosis- Telemedicine Diagnosis	TELE-STAT N = 72	TAP N = 72
ASD-ASD	64 (89%)	60 (83%)
No ASD-No ASD	2 (3%)	7 (10%)
ASD-No ASD	4 (6%)	4 (6%)
No ASD-ASD	2 (3%)	1 (1%)

Changes in Practice Behavior

Telemedicine

78% using telemedicine for diagnostic services during COVID-19 (up from 6% pre-COVID)

Measures

- Declines use of measures related to cognitive functioning, adaptive skills, language, and emotional/behavioral functioning.
- ▶ 92% of providers reported using ADOS-2 prior to COVID-19

Provider Perceptions: Tele-assessment

Benefits

- Increased access for families
- In-home observations with familiar caregivers
- Increased caregiver involvement
- Increased flexibility (scheduling, multiple providers)

Challenges

- Technology-related problems
- Caregiver difficulty following prompts
- Distractions in home environment
- Child-level factors

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04857-x

ORIGINAL PAPER

Toward Novel Tools for Autism Identification: Fusing Computational and Clinical Expertise

Laura L. Corona^{1,2} · Liliana Wagner^{1,2} · Joshua Wade³ · Amy S. Weitlauf^{1,2} · Jeffrey Hine^{1,2} · Amy Nicholson^{1,2,4} · Caitlin Stone^{1,2} · Alison Vehorn¹ · Zachary Warren^{1,2,4,5}

Accepted: 19 December 2020

© The Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders (2021) 51:476–486 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04554-9

ORIGINAL PAPER

Parent Perceptions of Caregiver-Mediated Telemedicine Tools for Assessing Autism Risk in Toddlers

Laura L. Corona^{1,2,5} · Amy S. Weitlauf^{1,2} · Jeffrey Hine^{1,2} · Anna Berman¹ · Alexandra Miceli¹ · Amy Nicholson^{1,2,3} · Caitlin Stone^{1,2} · Neill Broderick^{1,2} · Sara Francis^{1,2} · A. Pablo Juárez^{1,2,3,4} · Alison Vehorn¹ · Liliana Wagner^{1,2} · Zachary <u>Warren^{1,2,3,4}</u>

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04767-y

ORIGINAL PAPER

Use of the TELE-ASD-PEDS for Autism Evaluations in Response to COVID-19: Preliminary Outcomes and Clinician Acceptability

Liliana Wagner^{1,2} · Laura L. Corona^{1,2} · Amy S. Weitlauf^{1,2} · Kathryn L. Marsh⁵ · Anna F. Berman¹ · Neill A. Broderick^{1,2} · Sara Francis^{1,2} · Jeffrey Hine^{1,2} · Amy Nicholson^{1,2,3} · Caitlin Stone^{1,2} · Zachary Warren¹

We have found:

- Providers
 - Comfortable completing assessments
 - Making diagnoses
 - Providing feedback
- Families
 - Comfortable playing with child
 - Instructions easy to follow
 - Took right amount of time
 - Comfortable discussing diagnosis
 - Provider had seen behaviors of concern

Key Takeaways

- Large percentage (>50%) of children can be accurately identified through novel measures including TAP
- Telehealth clinicians correctly identified ASD with certainty in many cases.
 - Satisfaction is high, but difference between acceptable, preferred, and "gold-standard"
 - No single model acceptable for ALL families
 - All families should have options, matched to needs/priorities

Questions
 For whom does tele-assessment work
 best - and for whom does it not work?
 How can tele-assessment best support
 service entry and access?

VIDEO EXAMPLES

Video #1

Research Administration

Tucker

Concerns included head banging when upset, 21 months old delayed language milestones, not answering to name Enrolled in Alabama Early No previous ASD Intervention evaluations System developmental therapy only

Child age	e:	mos
Gender:	ΘM	OF

TELE-ASD-PEDS Rating Form

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Dichotomous score: Is the symptom present or not (1 vs. 3)

Likert score: 1 = symptom not present; 2 = symptom present but at subclinical levels; 3 = symptom obviously consistent with AS

ltem		1	2	3	Dichoto- mous 1/3	Likert 1/2/3
Socially directed speech and sounds	Child often u for a variety requesting, p sharing enjo	uses words or other vocalizations of social purposes (e.g. protesting, directing attention, yment).	Inconsistent socially directed speech.	Most of the child's sounds are self-directed. May make atypical non-word noises (e.g., "digga digga").		
Frequent and flexible eye contact	Child freque others and a	ntly makes eye contact with cross a variety of activities.	Child's eye contact seems inconsistent. Gaze seems less flexible and harder to catch than expected.	Child infrequently makes eye contact. Might only make eye contact during one activity (e.g., asking for help).		
Unusual vocalizations	No unusual qualities of speech/language observed. Most of child's speech is appropriate for the child's age and developmental level.		Speech is not clearly unusual, but there are some differences (e.g., volume, slight repetitive quality of speech/language, unclear echoing, some occasional sounds that are unusual).	Child produces unusual jargon, sounds, or speech/language (e.g., undirected jargoning, speech of peculiar intonation, unusual sounds, repetitive vocalizations, echoing or repetitive speech/language.		
Unusual or repetitive play	Child plays with toys in appropriate ways (uses toys as expected).		Child's play is not clearly unusual, but child is strongly focused on some toys, routines, or activities. May sometimes be hard to shift child's attention to something new.	Child shows clearly repetitive or unusual play, such as repeatedly pushing buttons, watching how objects move, lining things up, or scrambling/dropping toys.		
Unusual or repetitive body movements	No unusual or repetitive body movements seen.		Unclear unusual/repetitive body movements. Some repetitive jumping or very brief posturing of fingers, hands, or arms that is not clearly atypical.	Child clearly shows unusual or repetitive (e.g., hand-flapping, posturing or tensing upper body, toe-walking, facial grimacing, hand/finger mannerisms) repetitive running/ walking/spinning/jumping.		
Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/ vocalization	nes es, tact, ech/ tion Child frequently points and uses other gestures to communicate. Child's gestures are usually combined with vocalizations and eye contact.		Child may sometimes point or use other gestures, but less than expected. Child does not always look at you or make a sound when gesturing.	Child does not usually gesture to communicate. May sometimes reach or point, but does not usually combine these with eye gaze or sounds. May move your hand or push on your body to get help.		
Unusual sensory exploration or reaction	No unusual s	sensory behavior observed.	Unclear sensory exploration or reaction. May have a brief response to a sound, smell, or how something feels or moves.	Child shows sensory differences. May closely inspect objects, overreact to sounds, show intense interest or dislike to textures (e.g., touching, licking, biting, refusing to touch specific toys), or clear self-injurious behavior.		
ASD if forced to a Absent Unsure Present	hoose?	Did you recommend in person evaluation for diagnostic clarification?	How certain are you of your diagnostic impression?			Total Score
Diagnosis issued:	nosis issued:			0		

Child age: mos Gender: 🔳 M 🔾 F

TELE-ASD-PEDS Rating Form

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Dichotomous score: Is the symptom present or not (1 vs. 3) Likert score: 1 = symptom not present; 2 = symptom present but at subclinical levels; 3 = symptom obviously consistent with AS

ltem		1	2	2 3		Dichoto- mous 1/3	Likert 1/2/3	
Socially directed speech and sounds	Child often u for a variety requesting, p sharing enjog	uses words or other vocalizations of social purposes (e.g. protesting, directing attention, yment).	Inconsistent socially directed speech.		Most of the child's sounds are self-directed. May make atypical non-word noises (e.g., "digga digga").		3	3
Frequent and flexible eye contact	Child frequently makes eye contact with others and across a variety of activities.		Child's eye contact seems inconsistent. Gaze seems less flexible and harder to catch than expected.		Child infrequently makes eye contact. Might only make eye contact during one activity (e.g., asking for help).		3	2
Unusual vocalizations	No unusual qualities of speech/language observed. Most of child's speech is appropriate for the child's age and developmental level.		Speech is not clearly unusual, but there are some differences (e.g., volume, slight repetitive quality of speech/language, unclear echoing, some occasional sounds that are unusual).		Child produces unusual jargon, sounds, or speech/language (e.g., undirected jargoning, speech of peculiar intonation, unusual sounds, repetitive vocalizations, echoing or repetitive speech/language.		3	3
Unusual or repetitive play	Child plays with toys in appropriate ways (uses toys as expected).		Child's play is not clearly unusual, but child is strongly focused on some toys, routines, or activities. May sometimes be hard to shift child's attention to something new.		Child shows clearly repe play, such as repeatedly watching how objects m up, or scrambling/dropp	etitive or unusual pushing buttons, love, lining things ping toys.	1	2
Unusual or repetitive body movements	No unusual or repetitive body movements seen.		Unclear unusual/repetitive body movements. Some repetitive jumping or very brief posturing of fingers, hands, or arms that is not clearly atypical.		Child clearly shows unus (e.g., hand-flapping, po upper body, toe-walking hand/finger mannerisms walking/spinning/jumpir	sual or repetitive sturing or tensing g, facial grimacing, s) repetitive running/ ng.	3	3
Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/ vocalization	Child frequently points and uses other gestures to communicate. Child's gestures are usually combined with vocalizations and eye contact.		Child may sometimes point or use other gestures, but less than expected. Child does not always look at you or make a sound when gesturing.		Child does not usually g communicate. May som point, but does not usu with eye gaze or sounds hand or push on your be	esture to etimes reach or ally combine these s. May move your ody to get help.	3	3
Unusual sensory exploration or reaction	No unusual s	sensory behavior observed.	Unclear sensory exploration or reaction. May have a brief response to a sound, smell, or how something feels or moves.		Child shows sensory differences. May closely inspect objects, overreact to sounds, show intense interest or dislike to textures (e.g., touching, licking, biting, refusing to touch specific toys), or clear self-injurious behavior.		1	2
ASD if forced to c	hoose?	Did you recommend in person evaluation for diagnostic clarification?	How certain are you of your diagnostic impression? 1 2 3 0 4 Completely Somewhat Completely unaptating contains		1?		Total Score	
 Present 		Yes No			U 3 € 4 Somewhat Completely			18
Diagnosis issued: Autism Spectrum Disorder F84 0		uncertain	uncertain	certain	certain		10	

Video #2

Home Administration

Zavana

30 months old

No previous ASD evaluations delayed speech, inconsistent social interactions, ayptical motor movements,

Concerns included

Enrolled in Tennessee Early Intervention System - speech, occupational, and developmental therapies since age 2

Child age	e:	mos
Gender:	ΘM	OF

TELE-ASD-PEDS Rating Form

VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

TREATMENT & RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Dichotomous score: Is the symptom present or not (1 vs. 3)

Likert score: 1 = symptom not present; 2 = symptom present but at subclinical levels; 3 = symptom obviously consistent with AS

ltem		1	2	3	Dichoto- mous 1/3	Likert 1/2/3
Socially directed speech and sounds	Child often u for a variety requesting, p sharing enjo	uses words or other vocalizations of social purposes (e.g. protesting, directing attention, yment).	Inconsistent socially directed speech.	Most of the child's sounds are self-directed. May make atypical non-word noises (e.g., "digga digga").		
Frequent and flexible eye contact	Child freque others and a	ntly makes eye contact with cross a variety of activities.	Child's eye contact seems inconsistent. Gaze seems less flexible and harder to catch than expected.	Child infrequently makes eye contact. Might only make eye contact during one activity (e.g., asking for help).		
Unusual vocalizations	No unusual qualities of speech/language observed. Most of child's speech is appropriate for the child's age and developmental level.		Speech is not clearly unusual, but there are some differences (e.g., volume, slight repetitive quality of speech/language, unclear echoing, some occasional sounds that are unusual).	Child produces unusual jargon, sounds, or speech/language (e.g., undirected jargoning, speech of peculiar intonation, unusual sounds, repetitive vocalizations, echoing or repetitive speech/language.		
Unusual or repetitive play	Child plays with toys in appropriate ways (uses toys as expected).		Child's play is not clearly unusual, but child is strongly focused on some toys, routines, or activities. May sometimes be hard to shift child's attention to something new.	Child shows clearly repetitive or unusual play, such as repeatedly pushing buttons, watching how objects move, lining things up, or scrambling/dropping toys.		
Unusual or repetitive body movements	No unusual or repetitive body movements seen.		Unclear unusual/repetitive body movements. Some repetitive jumping or very brief posturing of fingers, hands, or arms that is not clearly atypical.	Child clearly shows unusual or repetitive (e.g., hand-flapping, posturing or tensing upper body, toe-walking, facial grimacing, hand/finger mannerisms) repetitive running/ walking/spinning/jumping.		
Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/ vocalization	nes es, tact, ech/ tion Child frequently points and uses other gestures to communicate. Child's gestures are usually combined with vocalizations and eye contact.		Child may sometimes point or use other gestures, but less than expected. Child does not always look at you or make a sound when gesturing.	Child does not usually gesture to communicate. May sometimes reach or point, but does not usually combine these with eye gaze or sounds. May move your hand or push on your body to get help.		
Unusual sensory exploration or reaction	No unusual s	sensory behavior observed.	Unclear sensory exploration or reaction. May have a brief response to a sound, smell, or how something feels or moves.	Child shows sensory differences. May closely inspect objects, overreact to sounds, show intense interest or dislike to textures (e.g., touching, licking, biting, refusing to touch specific toys), or clear self-injurious behavior.		
ASD if forced to a Absent Unsure Present	hoose?	Did you recommend in person evaluation for diagnostic clarification?	How certain are you of your diagnostic impression?			Total Score
Diagnosis issued:	nosis issued:			0		

Child age: mos Gender:
M
C
F

TELE-ASD-PEDS Rating Form



Dichotomous score: Is the symptom present or not (1 vs. 3) Likert score: 1 = symptom not present; 2 = symptom present but at subclinical levels; 3 = symptom obviously consistent with AS

ltem		1	2		3		Dichoto- mous 1/3	Likert 1/2/3
Socially directed speech and sounds	Child often uses words or other vocalizations for a variety of social purposes (e.g. requesting, protesting, directing attention, sharing enjoyment).		Inconsistent socially directed speech.		Most of the child's sounds are self-directed. May make atypical non-word noises (e.g., "digga digga").		3	3
Frequent and flexible eye contact	Child frequently makes eye contact with others and across a variety of activities.		Child's eye contact seems inconsistent. Gaze seems less flexible and harder to catch than expected.		Child infrequently makes eye contact. Might only make eye contact during one activity (e.g., asking for help).		3	3
Unusual vocalizations	No unusual qualities of speech/language observed. Most of child's speech is appropriate for the child's age and developmental level.		Speech is not clearly unusual, but there are some differences (e.g., volume, slight repetitive quality of speech/language, unclear echoing, some occasional sounds that are unusual).		Child produces unusual jargon, sounds, or speech/language (e.g., undirected jargoning, speech of peculiar intonation, unusual sounds, repetitive vocalizations, echoing or repetitive speech/language.		3	2
Unusual or repetitive play	Child plays with toys in appropriate ways (uses toys as expected).		Child's play is not clearly unusual, but child is strongly focused on some toys, routines, or activities. May sometimes be hard to shift child's attention to something new.		Child shows clearly repetit play, such as repeatedly pr watching how objects mov up, or scrambling/droppin	ive or unusual ushing buttons, ve, lining things g toys.	3	2
Unusual or repetitive body movements	No unusual or repetitive body movements seen.		Unclear unusual/repetitive body movements. Some repetitive jumping or very brief posturing of fingers, hands, or arms that is not clearly atypical.		Child clearly shows unusua (e.g., hand-flapping, postu upper body, toe-walking, f hand/finger mannerisms) r walking/spinning/jumping	al or repetitive rring or tensing facial grimacing, epetitive running/	3	3
Combines gestures, eye contact, and speech/ vocalization	Child frequently points and uses other gestures to communicate. Child's gestures are usually combined with vocalizations and eye contact.		Child may sometimes poi gestures, but less than ex not always look at you or when gesturing.	nt or use other pected. Child does make a sound	Child does not usually ges communicate. May someti point, but does not usually with eye gaze or sounds. N hand or push on your bod	iture to imes reach or y combine these May move your y to get help.	3	3
Unusual sensory exploration or reaction	No unusual sensory behavior observed.		Unclear sensory explorati have a brief response to a how something feels or m	on or reaction. May a sound, smell, or noves.	Child shows sensory differ inspect objects, overreact intense interest or dislike t touching, licking, biting, re specific toys), or clear self-	ences. May closely to sounds, show to textures (e.g., efusing to touch injurious behavior.	3	3
ASD if forced to a	ASD if forced to choose? Did you recommend in Absent person evaluation for Unsure diagnostic clarification? Present Yes No		How certain are you of yo		ur diagnostic impression?			Total Score
Present			Completely uncertain	2 Somewhat uncertain	U 3 Somewhat certain	 4 Completely certain 		19
Diagnosis issued: Autism Spectrum Disorder F84.0		uncertain uncertain		contain contain				

Challenges and Trouble-shooting

- Telemedicine is not an option for everyone.
- Complexity We will not be able to confidently make a diagnosis for all children via telemedicine. That's OK!
 - Language
 - Medical complexity
 - Significant developmental delays
 - Comorbidity

Challenges and Trouble-shooting

- You and parent will mess up. That's OK.
- TELE-ASD-PEDS allows:
 - Ability to repeat items or clarify your instructions.
 - Materials to be substituted or altered
 - Ask parent what they saw
- Meant to be a guide that can facilitate meaningful assessment of core social communication challenges and atypical behaviors
- If you saw it, you can count it

Challenges and Trouble-shooting

- Make a plan for technology challenges. Know it won't be perfect.
- Be mindful of the impact of giving a diagnosis in a home setting particularly a setting where resources may be sparse.
- Figure out how you will get resources to families email? EHR? And have them ready to send as promptly as possible

Publications and Additional Information

- Corona, L.L., Weitlauf, A.S., Hine, J., Berman, A., Miceli, A., Nicholson, A., Stone, C., Broderick, N., Francis, S., Juárez, A.P., Vehorn, A., Wagner, L., & Warren, Z. (2020). Parent perceptions of caregiver-mediated telemedicine tools for assessing autism risk in toddlers. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 51, 476-487. DOI: 10.1007/s10803-020-04554-9
- Wagner, L., Corona, L.L., Weitlauf, A.S., Marsh, K.L., Berman, A.F., Broderick, N.A., Francis, S., Hine, J., Nicholson, A., Stone, C., & Warren, Z. (2020). Use of the TELE-ASD-PEDS for autism evaluations in response to COVID-19: Preliminary outcomes and clinician acceptability. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. Online first, DOI: 10.1007/s10803-020-04767-y
- Corona, L.L., Wagner, L., Wade, J., Weitlauf, A.S., Hine, J., Nicholson, A., Stone, A., Vehorn, A., & Warren, Z. (2021). Toward novel tools for autism identification: Fusing computational and clinical expertise. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. Online first, DOI: 10.1007/s10803-020-04857-x

https://vkc.vumc.org/vkc/triad/tele-asd-peds