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Ozonoff et al (2011) "Recurrence Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Baby Siblings Research Consortium Study" *Pediatrics* 128(3):2010-2825.

In your practice, you have a boy with an autism spectrum disorder, ASD. His mother brings his new younger brother in to become part of your practice. What is the risk that the younger brother will develop an ASD?

In your practice, you have a family who has two siblings with ASD. Mom brings the new baby boy in to become part of your practice. What is the risk that this child will develop an ASD?

Previous risk estimates were 3-10%. Many of the studies had small sample size.

This baby sib study is important because it followed 664 infants with an older biological sibling with an ASD from early in life to 36 months. The baby sibs were seen at 12 sites in the US and Canada and entered the study prior to the age of 18 months. They were all evaluated at 36 months using the ADOS, the Mullen, and a clinical diagnosis by an expert clinician.

A total of 18.7% of the infants developed an ASD, with being male and having at least one older affected sib a significant predictor. Other factors were not significant.

For families with more than one affected older sibling child the risk to the baby sib was even higher. Male gender and multiple affected older sibs were significant predictors of risk for male baby sibs with 25.9% of high risk male baby sibs and 9.6% of female baby sibs affected. The risk for infants from these multiplex families was 32.2%.

The outcome of this study is important because it means that the pediatrician in families where one or two older siblings have an ASD should be aware that the risk of the baby sib developing an ASD is very much higher than previously suspected and that it is critical to complete 18 and 24 month screening.