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A very special way of being

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Background and Aim: Asperger syndrome is considered to be an 'autism spectrum disorder' (ASD). ASD is characterized by a constellation of symptoms that includes deficits in reciprocal social interaction, social communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior. Atypical social development can be difficult to identify before four years of age. However, parental concerns can be present at the age of 30 months. The age of diagnosis may decline as the awareness of the autism spectrum grows. The aim of this paper is to discuss a case of late diagnose of ASD.

Method: We collected the clinical history direct from the patient and the clinical information from the clinical process.

Results: 23 year old, Caucasian, male patient with an irrelevant personal and family history. His mother presented to their Family Doctor (FD), in august/2015, concerned about her son behavior after observing a film about autism. She brought an extensive document written by herself about her son's life. She told us that her son has a different behavior since he was a kid: deficits in social interaction, communication, repetitive behavior and perseverative interests. Her concerns were always interpreted by her family has over-protectionism and has motivated marital conflicts too. After a refusal to come to an appointment with his FD, the patient was advised to consult a child psychiatrist and he accepted. He was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome/ASD and began multidisciplinary follow-up. One month later he came to an appointment with his FD. The comprehension and acceptance of this disease by the patient and his family, contributed to the end of conflicts.

Conclusions: This case highlights the importance of giving attention to the parents' concerns about their child. Despite being late, the diagnosis increased life's quality of the patient and his family.

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