

Soundbite Script – Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

Dr. Syed Zaidi, Family Practice Physician, OSF HealthCare

“Autism Spectrum is when you think of a spectrum it’s going to be an array or a continuum of issues that may come across as to how one interacts with the environment. So their inability to receive what’s coming at them and interpret and process back out to the environment may not be what you and I consider traditional.”

Dr. Syed Zaidi, Family Practice Physician, OSF HealthCare

“Are you seeing repetitive movement, are you seeing ticks, tremors, there’s a word called echolalia, where they keep repeating the same words, and you don’t find any rhythm or pattern to it, but you can find triggers. Those are some of the common signs we read in textbooks, but no individual is exactly textbook.”

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“His lack of social ability was another red flag. So you put these pieces together and there’s something not right here. This gentleman, who wants to come out and function, is not able to. So you put him through the same battery of testing, the same structured interviewing. Look at the quality of life and look at what is impaired with his functionality.”

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“It is a spectrum and it is very wide and I don’t want any one individual to have a conviction this is what I have because I fit this profile. Go through the structured series of testing, get a formal evaluation, and get maybe not one but two opinions, because this is a diagnosis that can shape the rest of your life and how you function within it.”