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**TORCH Infections, Chronic Inflammation, and Dysbiotic Microbiome in ASD:  
Are They Appropriate Targets for Combined Traditional and Complementary  
Therapies?**

**Dr. Kenneth Alibek**

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**A**utism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a range of neurodevelopmental conditions that are clinically present early in childhood with the symptoms of social withdrawal and repetitive behavior. Various theories about the etiology of this disease have been developed to date. Many studies suggest that infections and inflammation during pregnancy play a significant role in genetic and epigenetic changes in the developing fetus, resulting in an autistic phenotype in a child. However, since the causative factors are multifactorial, there is a lack of comprehensive studies about them. Therefore, this presentation aims to discuss the most recent global and our studies on the roles of viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infections, overactivation of the immune system, and intestinal microflora in the pathogenesis of neurologic clinical manifestations of ASD. Furthermore, in the presentation, we show the role of TORCH infections, as well as the dysbiotic microbiome, have a significant association with the disruption of the social domain in ASD children primarily by causing sustained systemic and brain inflammation.

**Biography**

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