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The Perspectives and Experiences of Adult Siblings of Autistic Individuals

Providing care for children with autism can influence the health and well-being of the entire family. Furthermore, the sibling-sibling subsystem within the family will be fundamentally different when one of the siblings is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). In this presentation, the results of a qualitative study focusing on the perspectives of adult siblings of autistic individuals will be presented. Thirteen young adults (ages 21 – 30) participated in a semi-structured interview involving open-ended questions that were analyzed for common themes. Both positive and negative aspects of having a sibling with ASD were revealed.