

The questionnaire DACH was created within the pilot survey of the dissertation project of PhDr. Kateřina Thorová, Ph.D. Since it was put into practice, the questionnaire has become a relatively common tool used in the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The theoretical section of my dissertation introduces the reader to the wider context of Autism Spectrum Disorders – from ethiology to treatment (therapy).

The empirical section then focuses on editing, validation and standardization of the DACH questionnaire created by Thorová. Empirical testing of the DACH was conducted on a sample of 240 people. Statistical analysis of the collected data demonstrated a relatively high level of reliability, sensitivity and specificity of the method, along with a high predictive value of positive results. The correlation between the questionnaire results and the results of the diagnostic assessment with the use of the methods of the „golden standard“ for autism was lower, but can be considered as satisfactory.

The main goal of my dissertation is to develop a standardized Czech method for screening early symptoms of autism in children. For wider access of the practical applications of this project, an electronic version of the DACH questionnaire is available, including scoring and general recommendations. The questionnaire is designed particularly for parents, carers and those who know the child closely or are in regular contact with the child.