

## Supplementary Information

Table a Studies excluded from the systematic review and meta-analysis

1.	Corbett, B. A., & Schupp, C. W. (2013). Comprehensive Investigation of the Cortisol Awakening Response in Children with Autism. <i>Biological Psychiatry</i> , 73(9), 96S–97S. Meeting Abstract: 298. Conference Presentation: 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society-of-Biological-Psychiatry. Location: San Francisco, CA. MAY 16-18, 2013	Conference presentation title. Published in Corbett & Schupp (2014)
2.	Davis, E.P., Benjamin L. Hankin, B.L., Swales, D.A. & Hoffman, M.C. (2018). An experimental test of the fetal programming hypothesis: Can we reduce child ontogenetic vulnerability to psychopathology by decreasing maternal depression? <i>Development and Psychopathology</i> , 30, 787-806. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954579418000470">https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954579418000470</a>	Review paper.
3.	Ocklenburg, S., Korte, S. M., Peterburs, J., Wolf, O. T., & Gunturkun, O. (2016). Stress and laterality - The comparative perspective. <i>Physiology &amp; Behavior</i> , 164, 321–329. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2016.06.020">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2016.06.020</a>	Not ASD population
4.	O’Mahony, S.M., Clarke, G., Dinan, T.G. & Cryanab, J.F. (2017). Early-life adversity and brain development: Is the microbiome a missing piece of the puzzle? <i>Neuroscience</i> , 342, 37-54. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroscience.2015.09.068">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroscience.2015.09.068</a>	Review paper.
5.	Prata, J., Santos, S.G., Almeida, M., Coelho, R., & Barbosa, M.A. (2017). Bridging Autism Spectrum Disorders and Schizophrenia through inflammation and biomarkers - pre-clinical and clinical investigations. <i>Journal of Neuroinflammation</i> , 4;14:179. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1186/s12974-017-0938-y">https://doi.org/10.1186/s12974-017-0938-y</a> .	Review
<i>Excluded from the meta-analysis</i>		
1.	Marinović-Ćurin, J., Marinović-Terzić, I., Bujas-Petković, Z., Zekan, L., Škrabić, V., Đogaš, Z., & Terzić, J. (2007). Slower cortisol response during ACTH stimulation test in autistic children. <i>European Child &amp; Adolescent Psychiatry</i> , 17(1), 39–43. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-007-0632-1">https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-007-0632-1</a>	Contact with author was unsuccessful

**Table b. Assessment of the risk of bias using the Newcastle Ottawa Scale (NOS). A \* indicates positive item, as per NOS manual.**

Study	Selection				Comparability	Exposure		
	Is the case definition adequate?	Representativeness of the cases	Selection of controls	Definition of controls	Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis	Ascertainment of Exposure	Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls	Non-response rate
Brosnan et al. 2008	*	NS	*	*	*	*	*	NS
Corbett & Schupp (2014)	*	NS	NS	*	**	*	*	NS
Gabriels et al., 2013	*	NS	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NS
Marinovic - Curin et al., 2008	*	NS	NS	*	*	*	*	NS
Sharpley et al., 2019	*	NS	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NS
Sharpley et al., 2016	*	NS	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NS
Tomarken, et al., 2015	*	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*	NS
Viau et al., 2010	*	-	NA	NA	NA	*	*	NS

Zinke et al., 2010	*	-	*	*	NS	*	*	NS
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**NS: Not specified; NA: not applicable**