

A Novel Approach to Universal Screening for Autism in a Hospital-Based Down Syndrome Clinic

Kerry Prout, PhD, ABPP; Rebecca Miller, RN, BSN; Darren Olsen, PhD; Jacqueline Kitchen, MD, MS; Maria Dycoco, MD; Kristie Marble, DO, FAAP; Nasreen Talib, MD, MPH

Children's Mercy Kansas City

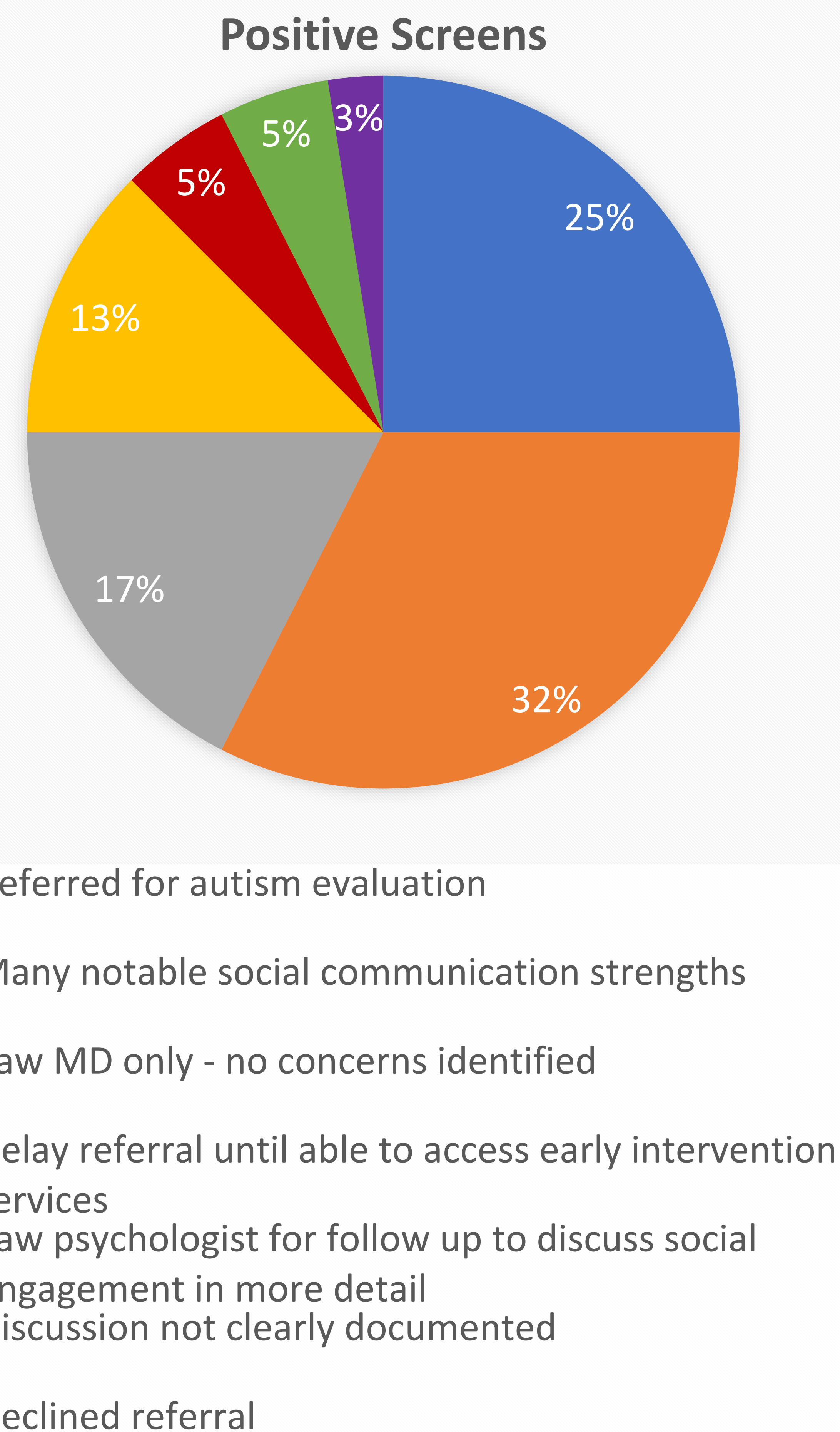
Background

- The AAP recommends all children with DS be screened for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) between 18 - 24 months of age (Bull et al. 2022).
- Early identification is crucial for timely intervention and improved outcomes (Hyman et al., 2020).

Methods & Results

- Patients screened during yearly multidisciplinary Down Syndrome Clinic visit
- Screeners:
 - *Ages 16 -35 months*: The Survey of Well-Being of Young Children (SWYC): Parent's Observations of Social Interactions (POSI)
 - *Ages 4 years and up*: Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ)
- Duration of pilot: 14 months
- 92 patients screened
 - 53 male; 39 female
 - 2-19 years old
- 40 patients (43%) screened positive
 - 20 on the SCQ
 - 20 on the POSI

Results



Discussion

- Given the need to balance the national shortage of BH services with the benefits of early identification of ASD, we found clear value for real-time review of positive screening results by providers trained in both DS and ASD.
- This review was able to identify clear cases of children in need for referral without over referring.
- Additional follow up will be helpful to analyze
 - positive screening results that did not have a referral placed
 - potential missed opportunities
 - improvements in the process and procedures
 - Identification of screening tool for age 3:0-3:11

References

Bull MJ, Trotter T, Santoro SL, Christensen C, Grout RW, THE COUNCIL ON GENETICS; Health Supervision for Children and Adolescents With Down Syndrome. *Pediatrics* May 2022; 149 (5): e2022057010. 10.1542/peds.2022-057010

Hyman SL, Levy SE, Myers SM; COUNCIL ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, SECTION ON DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS. Executive Summary: Identification, Evaluation, and Management of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Pediatrics*. 2020 Jan;145(1):e20193448. doi: 10.1542/peds.2019-3448. Epub 2019 Dec 16. PMID: 31843858.

