

## Researchers Test New Treatment For Autism

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Researchers at the Ohio State University Medical Center said an old drug may offer new hope for children struggling with autism.

According to the Autism Society of America, autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. There is no cure, but researchers are testing a variety of treatments, including a drug called mecamlamine.

Mecamlamine was first used to treat high blood pressure in the 1950s. Researchers at the Ohio State University Medical Center said the drug has been effective more recently in helping children control the symptoms of conditions like Tourette syndrome and attention deficit disorder. They hope it might also help with autism.

"There is some hope that it will make a significant improvement in the core symptoms: the social impairment, the communication, the repetitive behavior, such that it will help them to faster get along the road to rehabilitation," said researcher Dr. Eugene Arnold.

For the current study, 20 children age 4 to 12 with autism will receive the drug or placebo over 13 weeks.