### Screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder in Young Children: Clinical Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Children aged 18 to 30 months for whom no concerns of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have been raised by their parents or a clinician</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>No recommendation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade: I (insufficient evidence)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Risk Assessment

Although a number of potential risk factors for ASD have been identified, there is insufficient evidence to determine if certain risk factors modify the performance characteristics of ASD screening tests, such as the age at which screening is performed or other characteristics of the child or family.

### Screening Tests

The most commonly studied tool is the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) and its subsequent revisions. A positive finding should lead to a follow-up interview, which, if positive, should lead to a full diagnostic workup for ASD.

### Treatment and Interventions

Treatments for ASD include behavioral, medical, educational, speech/language, and occupational therapy and complementary and alternative medicine approaches. Treatments for young children are primarily behavioral interventions, particularly early intensive behavioral and developmental interventions.

### Balance of Benefits and Harms

The USPSTF concludes that there is insufficient evidence to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for ASD in young children for whom no concerns of ASD have been raised.

### Other Relevant USPSTF Recommendations

The USPSTF has made a recommendation on screening for speech and language delays and disorders among children 5 years or younger. This recommendation is available on the USPSTF Web site [www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org).

For a summary of the evidence systemically reviewed in making this recommendation, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents, please go to [www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org).