A qualitative analysis of the recommendations from Project ECHO Ontario Autism

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Background

- Healthcare professionals report a lack of knowledge in treating children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).[1-3]
- The Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) model uses case-based learning to guide physicians in providing best-practice care of clients with ASD.

Research Question

What are the common categories present within the recommendations generated after each case presentation?

Methods

- A coding guide to analyze the content and themes of case recommendations was created.
- A qualitative analysis of all case recommendations was completed to identify categories of recommendations and their frequencies.

Recommendations from Project ECHO Ontario Autism are multifaceted and focus on themes of diagnosis, concurrent conditions, referrals, accessing resources, education, management strategies, patient and family-centered care, and Covid-19.

For more information about Project ECHO Ontario Autism, please visit:

Results

- 3 Cycles of Cases
- 61 Cases
- 422 Recommendations
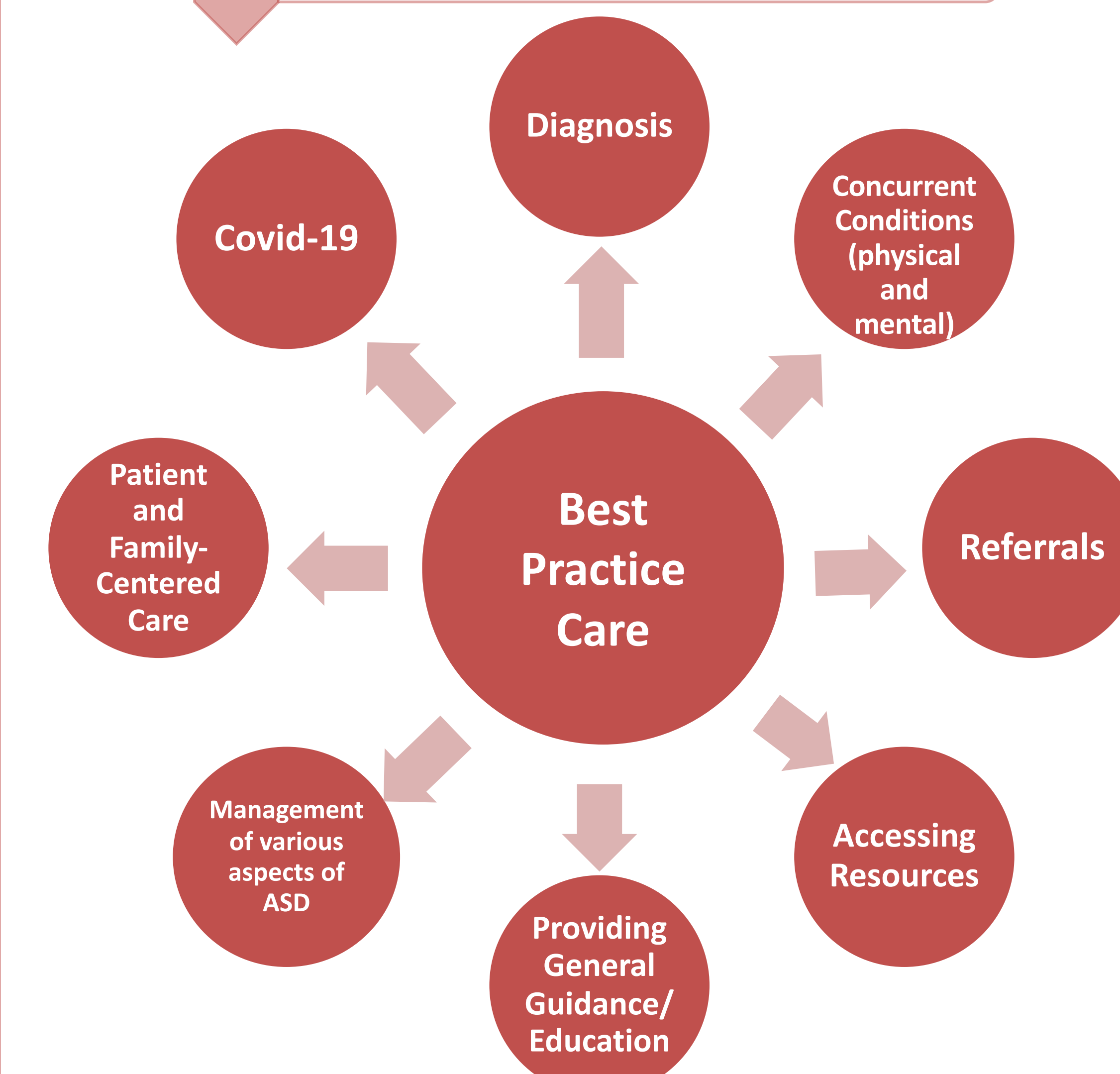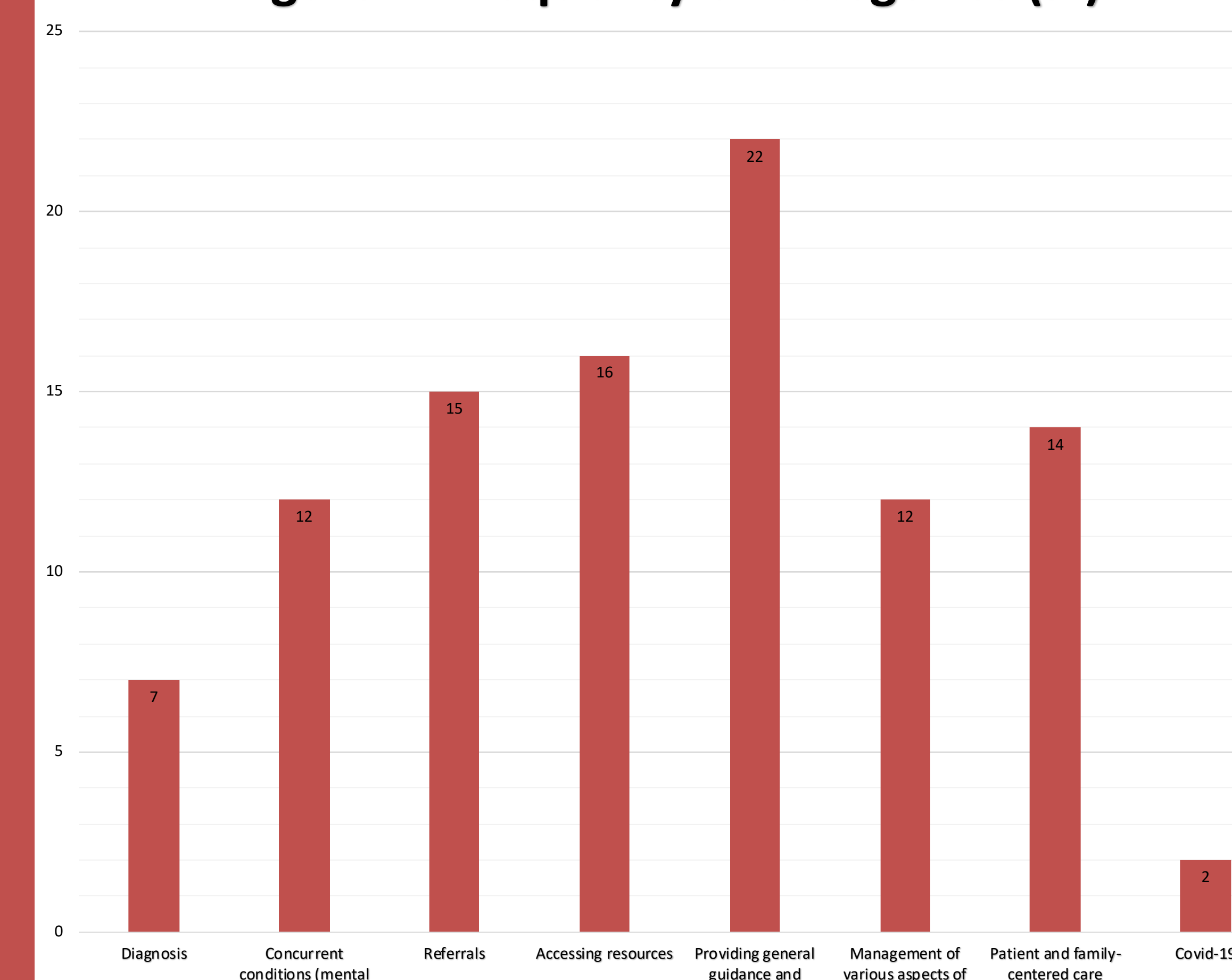- 57 Codes
- 8 Categories of Codes

Figure 1. Frequency of Categories (%)

Conclusions/Next Steps

Conclusion: Recommendations show that community practitioners may provide improved care after receiving tailored education and training about best practices.

Next steps: Findings from this study will be disseminated in the literature to help guide physicians through best practice care and integrated to inform Pediatrics programs about existing gaps in ASD medical education.

References:
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[2] Ip AWS, Zwaigenbaum, L., Nicholas, D., Sharon, R. Factors influencing autism spectrum disorder screening by community paediatricians. Paediatrics and Child Health. 2015;20(5):e20-4.
[3] Carbone PS, Behl DD, Azor V, Murphy NA. The medical home for children with autism spectrum disorders: parent and pediatrician perspectives. Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders. 2010;40(3):317-24.

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