

The Autism Biomarkers Consortium for Clinical Trials (ABC-CT): Scientific Context, Study Design, and Progress

Link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32346363/>

At the present time, most autism research relies on descriptions provided by clinicians or parents or caregivers. This information is very important, but it may be subjective or fail to provide information about things that can't be readily observed. The Autism Biomarkers Consortium for Clinical Trials (ABC-CT) is a five site study designed to identify objective and sensitive biological markers, or "biomarkers", of social and communicative behavior that may be relevant to autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The ABC-CT used the electroencephalogram (EEG) and eye-tracking (ET) because these are ways of measuring brain function that are cost effective and very tolerable for children. The study is ongoing but has shown great promise, with two biomarkers accepted into the FDA's Biomarker Qualification Program for the purpose of identifying potential subgroups within ASD. The ABC-CT's ongoing work aims to provide clinicians and treatment developers with better biomarkers to develop more effective ways of measuring outcomes in ASD.