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Acta Paedopsychiatr. 1992;55(3):169-73.**Naltrexone open trial with a 5-year-old-boy. A social rebound reaction.**Lensing P<sup>1</sup>, Klingler D, Lampl C, Leboyer M, Bouvard M, Plumet MH, Panksepp J.**Author information****Abstract**

The neurobiological rationale for an opiate antagonist pharmacotherapy of **autism** is presented. **Naltrexone** efficacy in decreasing **autistic** behaviour and in increasing social-affiliative behaviour was explored in a 5-year-old **autistic** boy. **Naltrexone** (0.5 mg/kg 3 times per week) was effective in immediately decreasing gross motor activity and stereotyped behaviour and caused a delayed increase of crying, smiling and rough-and-tumble play. This single case presents preliminary evidence that a therapeutically valuable rebound reaction is possible and that the human opioid system modulates social-affective processes. The possibility of psychological factors being instrumental in achieving this effect is discussed as being suitable for future clinical trials.

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