

# Raja and Neil's FASD Book Club

## Overlapping conditions



In this session, Professor Raja Mukhkerjee talked about the importance of telling the difference between FASD and other conditions.

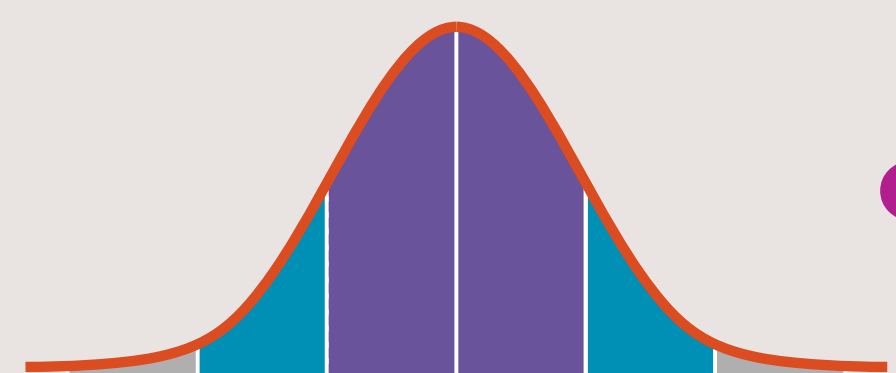


People with FASD are often first referred for diagnosis of other conditions like ADHD or autism.



Doctors have to take a careful history and perform tests that can help them untangle it all so they can understand if it is FASD.

Most people's scores



To diagnose FASD, a person needs to meet 'thresholds' for having a disorder. Tests show measurements of how someone differs from others who don't have the disorder.

# What can affect development

Doctors have to look at all the things that can affect development, such as:



prenatal alcohol



genetic disorders



prematurity



prenatal drugs



trauma

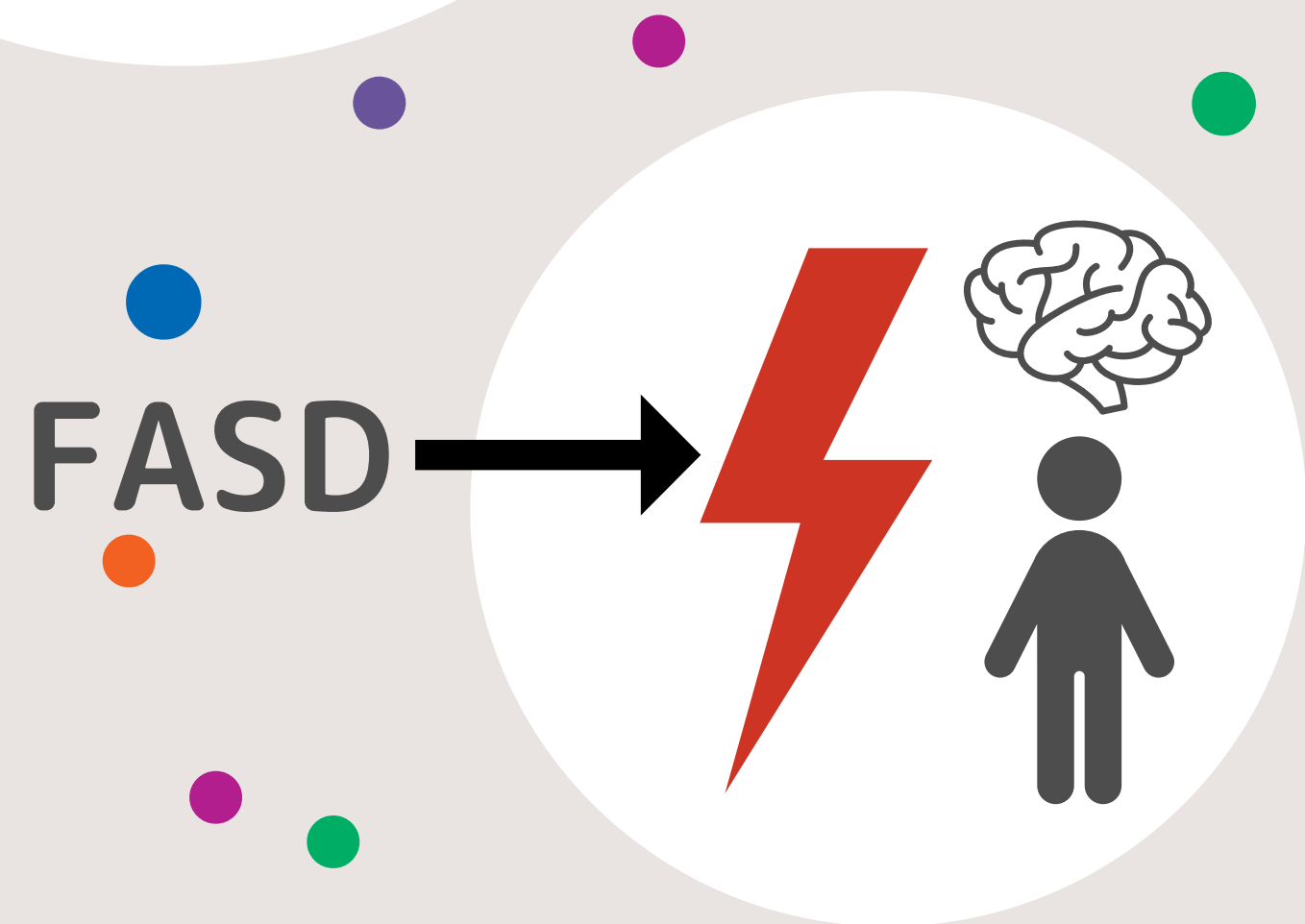


post natal neglect



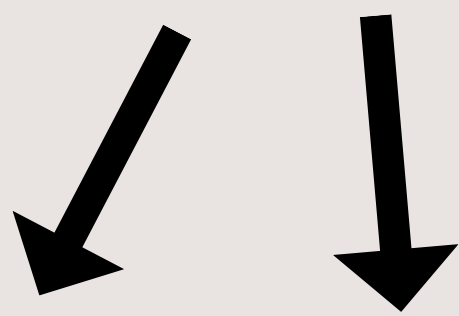
Sometimes the information isn't easy to gather - for example when the child has been adopted or fostered or if the birth mum can't remember details.

# FASD as the cause of damage to the brain and body



There is a difference between conditions like FASD that lead to damage and those that are a result of the damage (like ADHD and autism).

sometimes



Autism ADHD

When FASD is present, it is the cause of the damage to the developing brain and body.



Taking a good alcohol and drug history is important. Asking what the pregnant person's behaviour was before pregnancy often indicates what they were doing during pregnancy.

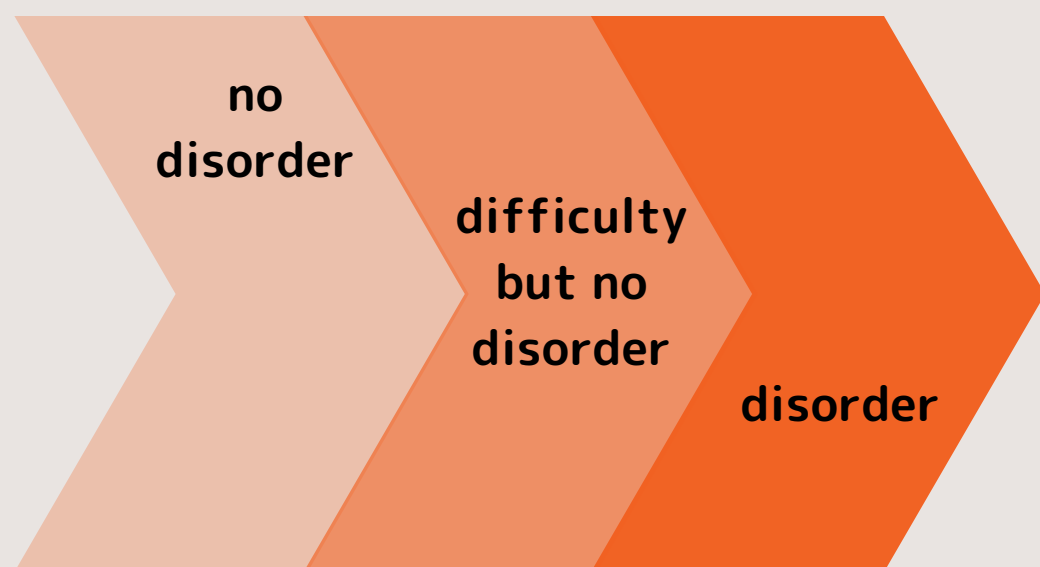




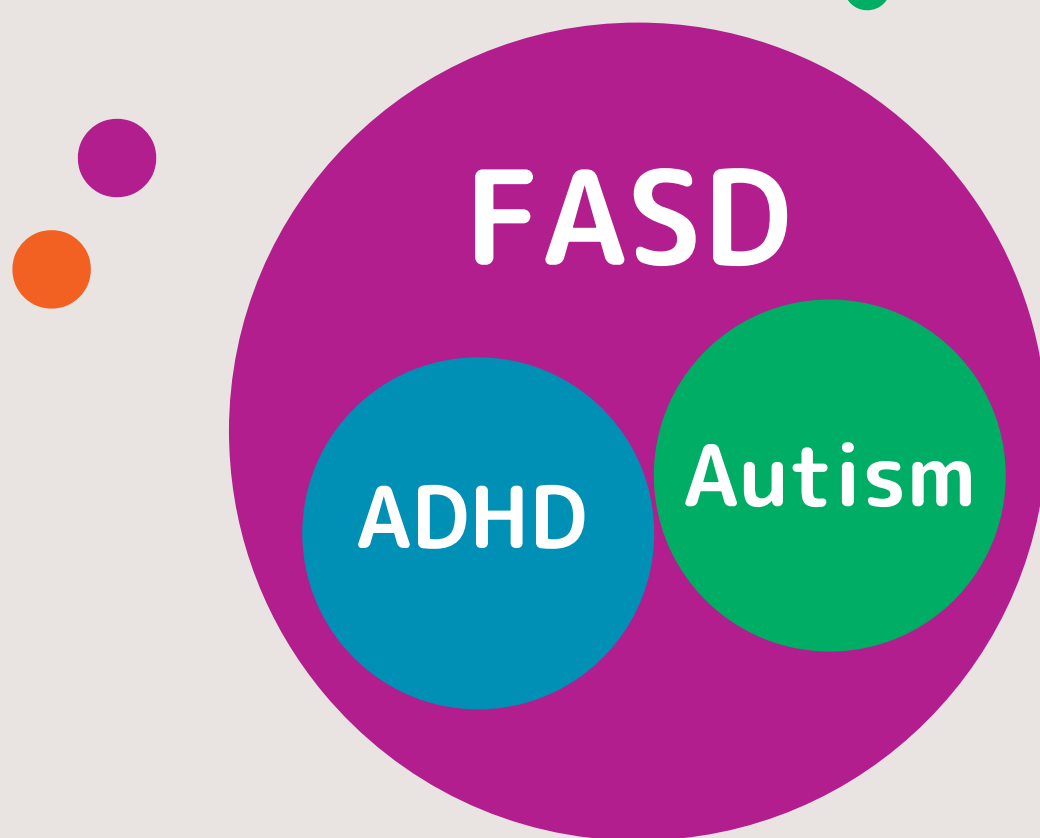
# Autism and ADHD can be part of FASD



Not every child exposed to alcohol in the womb will have FASD.



Some may be affected but not enough to get an FASD diagnosis.



When ADHD and autism (or other conditions) occur with FASD, they are not separate conditions but are part of FASD, caused by the prenatal alcohol exposure.

There are types of ADHD and autism that occur most often with FASD.

# FASD, Autism & ADHD



People with FASD who qualify for an autism diagnosis are usually more social than with typical autism.



At the National FASD service in Surrey, up to nearly half the people also have an autism diagnosis.



With FASD, those with ADHD usually don't have the hyperactivity that comes with typical ADHD.



At the National FASD service in Surrey, up to 85% the people also have an ADHD diagnosis.

# Assessments are critical

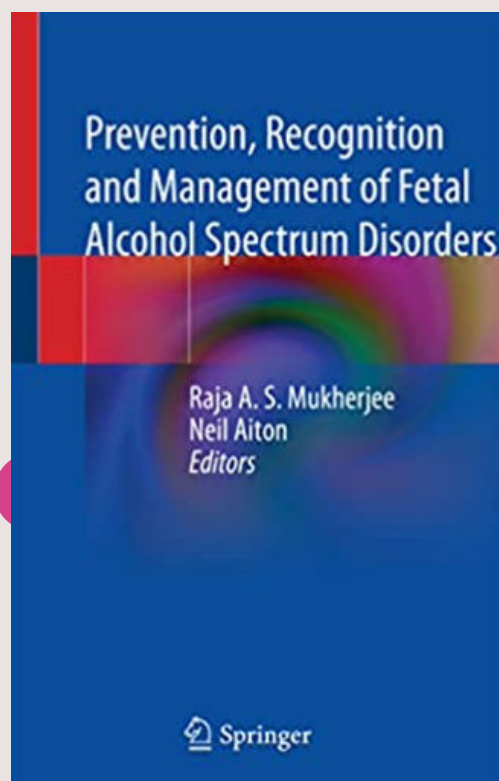


Everyone with FASD should also be assessed for ADHD and autism.



People with FASD need to be assessed for these and other conditions because knowing for example if they also have ADHD or are autistic affects the treatment and strategies for support.

# What is Raja & Neil's FASD Bookclub?



Prof Raja Mukherjee and Dr Neil Aiton wrote a book for other doctors about FASD. But they hope more people can access the information



In this online book club people who wrote chapters give 15- minute talks about what they wrote and then they answer questions



After each book club, the talks are shared on National FASD's YouTube channel



You don't have to read the book. It's expensive because it's for libraries and universities. But if you want to order it, it's here:

<https://tinyurl.com/RajaAndNeilFASDBook>