Very little is known about the sensory nerves of young children with autism. While it is known that they have problems with touch on many parts of the body and in the mouth, sensory nerve function has not been fully evaluated.

In this study, we will seek to learn more about the sensory nerves in autism. A very small biopsy from the surface skin inside the cheek will be taken from 20 young children between the ages of three and six. We will compare the results from ten children with autism with those of ten children without autism, developmental delay, neurological problems, or sensory difficulties on the face or in the mouth.

Only children who are already being scheduled for surgery and general anesthesia for a necessary medical condition (e.g. removing tonsils, placing ear tubes) will be eligible to participate in this study. The biopsy will be taken while children are under general anesthesia for their necessary surgical procedures.

Families will be compensated $200 for the participation of their child in the study. Payment will be made after the biopsy has been taken.
Eligibility Criteria for Autism Group

• Children should be between 3 and 6 years of age
• Children should have a confirmed diagnosis of autism
• Children should have no other neurological or skin condition
• Eligible children will be scheduled for surgery and general anesthesia for reasons unrelated to this study

Eligibility Criteria for Typical Group

• Children should be between 3 and 6 years of age
• Children should have no diagnosis of autism, developmental delay, neurological condition, or sensory difficulties on the face or in the mouth
• Eligible children will be scheduled for surgery and general anesthesia for reasons unrelated to this study

Next Steps for Parents

If you would like your child to participate in this study, please complete the following steps.

If you have access to email:

• Send an email to info@qsti.org expressing your interest in the study.
• Complete forms online using a link that we will send to you.
• We will review the information to determine whether your child meets eligibility criteria, and will inform you within a few days whether he/she has been accepted into the study.
• If accepted into the study, complete an informed consent form, that you will need to read carefully, sign and return to us.
• If your child has autism, we will need you to send a copy of his/her medical evaluation and diagnosis to address listed below.

If you do not have email:

• Complete the information packet and mail it to the address below.
• If your child has autism, you must also include a copy of your child’s autism evaluation and diagnosis.

Sensory Nerve Research Study
PO Box 688
Salem, OR 97308

The family will be paid $200 after the biopsy has been taken.

For any questions, you may contact Dr. Louisa Silva at info@qsti.org or 503.585.9239.