

1 **Title**

2 **A Natural History of *NAA15*-related Neurodevelopmental Disorder Through Adolescence**

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11 **Abstract**

12 NAA15 is a member of the NatA N-terminal acetyltransferase complex, which also
13 includes the NAA10 enzymatic sub-unit. Individuals with variants in the *NAA15* coding region
14 develop *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental syndrome, which presents with a wide array of
15 manifestations that affect the heart, brain, musculoskeletal system, and behavioral and cognitive
16 development. We tracked a cohort of 27 participants (9 females and 18 males) over time, each
17 with a pathogenic *NAA15* variant, and administered the Vineland-3 assessment to assess their
18 adaptive functioning. We found that the cohort performed significantly worse compared to the
19 normalized Vineland values. On average, females performed better than males, and they
20 performed significantly better on the Motor Domain and Fine Motor Sub-Domain portions of the
21 assessment. Over time, females showed a decrease in adaptive functioning, with the decline
22 being especially correlated at the Coping, Domestic, and Fine motor sub-domains. Males (after

23 excluding one outlier) showed a moderate positive correlation between age and ABC standard
24 score. Ultimately, additional longitudinal data should be collected to determine the validity of the
25 between sex-differences and to better understand the change in adaptive behavioral outcomes of
26 individuals with *NAA15*-neurodevelopmental disorder as they age.

27 **Introduction**

28 N-terminal acetylation is a prevalent protein modification that involves the addition of an
29 acetyl group to the alpha-amino group of the N-terminal amino acid of a protein (Aksnes et al.,
30 2019). This enzymatic process is catalyzed by a group of N-terminal acetyltransferases (NATs)
31 and plays a pivotal role in various cellular processes, including protein stability, protein-protein
32 interactions, and cellular localization (Aksnes et al., 2015; Bienvenut et al., 2012; Dikiy &
33 Eliezer, 2014). There are seven known NAT types, with NatA being the most prominent, believed
34 to be responsible for modifying 40-50% of the human proteome (Deng et al., 2019; Feng & Ma,
35 2016; Van Damme, 2021). The NatA complex is composed of the catalytic sub-unit NAA10, and
36 the auxiliary sub-units NAA15 and HYPK (Deng et al., 2019; Dörfel et al., 2017; Feng et al.,
37 2016; Knorr et al., 2019; Weidenhausen et al., 2021).

38 Dysregulation of NAA10 and NAA15 expression or activity has been associated with the
39 pathogenesis of various diseases, including cancer (Kuhns et al., 2018; Le et al., 2023; Zhang et
40 al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2024), neurodevelopmental disorders (Cheng et al., 2018; Lyon et al., 2023;
41 Makwana et al., 2024; Sidhu et al., 2017; Wu & Lyon, 2018), and cardiovascular diseases
42 (Belbachir et al., 2023; Huth et al., 2023; Ritter et al., 2021; Støve et al., 2018; Ward et al.,
43 2021). More notably, mutations in the X-linked gene *NAA10* lead to Ogden Syndrome, which has
44 numerous effects on an individual's development and overall health. *NAA15*-related
45 neurodevelopmental syndrome has overlapping symptoms with Ogden Syndrome, including

46 intellectual disability, atypical or delayed development, heart anomalies, and more features
47 previously described, though patients with *NAA15* variants typically have milder phenotypes
48 (Cheng et al., 2020; Dörfel & Lyon, 2015; Lyon et al., 2023; McTiernan et al., 2018; Myklebust
49 et al., 2015; Patel et al., 2024; Pesz et al., 2018; Stessman et al., 2017; Støve et al., 2018; Umlai
50 et al., 2021; Wong et al., 2019; Zhao et al., 2018). Additionally, *NAA15* variants are associated
51 with musculoskeletal and neuromuscular abnormalities that can appear in childhood or may have
52 a delayed appearance until adulthood (Danti et al., 2024; Monestier et al., 2019; Pesz et al., 2018;
53 Tian et al., 2022; Yubero et al., 2022).

54 The aim of the current study is to further describe adaptive functioning in individuals
55 with *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental syndrome by analyzing prospective data to understand
56 how this disorder progresses over time.

57 **Methods**

58 Participants

59 All families that participated in the investigation signed Institutional Review Board
60 (IRB)-approved consents and HIPAA forms. The scope of the project was explained in lay
61 language. The participant population included children with *NAA15* pathogenic variants that the
62 principal investigator has previously worked with for other research projects. Participants were
63 not compensated for their time. Overall, there were 27 families who were administered the
64 assessment. Probands were assigned *NAA15*-XXX designations based on an internal registry
65 known only to the researchers to ensure anonymity and confidentiality while allowing unique
66 probands to be tracked in the literature.

67 Cognitive Assessment

68 The parents of the participants were administered Vineland-3 which is composed of three
69 core domains: Communication Daily Living Skills, and Socialization. These domains are further
70 split into sub-domains that are used to assess an individual's competency in tasks of personal and
71 social sufficiency (Perry et al., 2009). The scores for each core domain are norm referenced and
72 summed to generate an Adaptive Behavior composite (ABC) score that provides a holistic
73 picture of an individual's adaptive behavior across domains. The Vineland-3 tools were
74 administered by three trained assessors at various timepoints in the participants' lives, ranging
75 from 1-23 years old. Individual assessor scores were cross validated with one another to ensure
76 equivalency in assessment administration and scoring. Participant caregivers were those
77 interviewed due to their proximity to and knowledge of the patients. Participants were given
78 access to the Vineland assessment scores after they were generated.

79 Analysis

80 The Principal Investigator and associated staff collected at least one Vineland-3 score for
81 each participant over multiple years. Some participants were able to take the assessment more
82 than once, thereby providing a longitudinal outlook. Natural history analysis and visualization
83 was then performed using the GraphPad Prism software. All pathogenic variants were analyzed
84 together and graphed by comparing their ABC standard score against the age at time of
85 assessment. Further analysis was performed by filtering graphs by sex. All pathogenic variants,
86 male participants, and female participants were also graphed according to their Communication
87 (com), Daily Living Skills (dls), Social (soc), and Motor (mot) domain standard scores. The
88 domain scores were further broken down into sub-domain standard scores to allow for more
89 granular identification of participant strength and weakness over time. The Communication sub-
90 domain scores were Receptive (rec), Expressive (exp), and Written (wrn). The Daily Living

91 Skills sub-domains analyzed were Personal (per), Domestic (dom), and Community (cmm). The
92 Socialization sub-domains of interest were Interpersonal Relationships (ipr), Play and Leisure
93 (pla), and Coping Skills (cop). The Motor sub-domains of Interest were Fine Motor (fmo) and
94 Gross Motor (gmo). Scores were only collected and included for this motor domain if patients
95 were under the age of nine to stay within the validated age range of the exam (Perry et al., 2009),
96 although it is possible to score older patients, just keeping this limitation in mind. Lastly, the
97 Internalizing (int) and Externalizing (ext) sub-domain components of the Maladaptive Trait
98 domain were also included in analysis, however the Critical Items component of the domain
99 were not.

100 The scores were compared in Microsoft Excel with two-tailed equal variance t-tests to
101 compare the adaptive behavior outcomes between males and females to determine if there were
102 sex differences. The p-value was set at .05 for all calculations. Correlation coefficients were also
103 calculated for each of the graphs made using Excel. A second round of calculations for the t-test
104 and the correlation coefficients in the male cohort was performed to exclude NAA15-010 due to
105 being three standard deviations above the mean in age compared to the other participants and
106 having performed two standard deviations below the mean in Vineland ABC, Motor, Social, and
107 Daily Living Skills standard scores. Data presented in tables includes calculations performed
108 including NAA15-010 unless otherwise specified. The Vineland manual also provides Domain
109 and ABC standard score ranges that correspond to adaptive behavior functioning level. “High
110 functioning” individuals score between 130-140, “moderately high” between 115-129,
111 “adequately” between 86-114, “moderately low” between 71-85, and “low functioning” less than
112 70. We clustered participants based off their scores and performed chi square statistics to

113 determine if there was a further differentiation that could be made between the male and female
114 cohort in how they function.

115 **Results**

116 There were 27 participants who were administered the Vineland and included in this
117 study. A breakdown of the different pathogenic variants in each sex can be seen in **Table 1**. In
118 this cohort, there were 26 unique pathogenic variants identified. 25 of these variants were only
119 present in one proband each. The p.His080Argfs*17 variant was present in two unrelated
120 probands. Twenty-five participants developed their variant *de novo* and 2 participants have
121 variants of unknown origin (due to the parents not being tested). Of the 27 participants, 9 are
122 female and 18 are male with ages ranging from 1 year to 24.5 years (mean = 9.0 years, standard
123 deviation (SD) = 5.2).

124 Compared to the general population, individuals with *NAA15* variants scored below
125 average on the Vineland-3 Assessment (where average is mean=100, sd=15). This was true for
126 ABC standard scores as well as the main domain scores. The average ABC score among *NAA15*
127 variants was 68.5 (SD = 22.1). Females tended to outperform males across adaptive behavior
128 domains. However, except for the Motor domain score, these differences were not statistically
129 significant. A summary of the Vineland 3 scores can be seen in **Table 2**.

130 Graphical representations of the ABC standard scores over time can be seen in **Figure 1**.
131 Before stratifying by sex, there appears to be an overall downward trend in score with age.
132 **Figure 2** shows the ABC standard scores separated by male and female. Separation by sex shows
133 a moderate linear increase in adaptive function in males over time, when excluding NAA15-010,
134 whereas females appear to show a moderate linear decay. There is also a moderate linear decay

135 in the female Daily Living Skills domain over times whereas the males showed a moderate
136 positive linear growth when excluding NAA15-010. **Table 3** showcases the remaining calculated
137 correlation coefficient values for the Vineland ABC and Domain standard scores for the females,
138 males, and males excluding NAA15-010.

139 The Communication, Daily Living Skills, Social, and Motor standard score graphs can be
140 seen in **Figure 3** and follow similar trends for females and males, when excluding NAA15-010,
141 to the ABC scores over time. It should be noted that excluding NAA15-010 did not significantly
142 change the t-test statistics of the standard scores when comparing the males and the females. The
143 magnitude at which the females outperformed the males decreased. However, except for the
144 Motor domain score, their differences were still not significant.

145 Dividing the Motor domain into its Fine Motor and Gross Motor sub-domains elucidated
146 the difference between sexes. Males, with and without the inclusion of NAA15-010, scored 7.8
147 (SD = 3.2) on average on the Fine Motor subdomain component of the Vineland. This is
148 significantly less than the females, who had an average score of 13.3 (SD = 3.5, $p = .001$). On
149 average for Gross Motor subdomain scores, males (mean = 8.5, SD = 4.0) also performed worse
150 than their female counterparts (mean = 10.4, SD = 2.2), although this difference was not
151 statistically significant. There were no other significant differences between how the sexes
152 performed in the various sub-domains. A summary of the breakdown of each domain into its sub-
153 domain components can be seen in **Table 4**.

154 Each domain sub-domain score can be seen in **Figure 4**. The strongest negative linear
155 associations exist between the Coping, Fine Motor, and Domestic sub-domains over time in the
156 females with *NAA15* variants. There are also moderately strong negative linear associations in
157 the Receptive and Personal sub domains. The correlation coefficients in the males were not as

158 strong as those in the females. However, when excluding NAA15-010, the Personal sub-domain
159 had a moderate positive linear relationship over time. Calculated correlation coefficients for each
160 sub-domain can be seen in **Table 5**.

161 Categorical analysis based on the Vineland manual category designations can be found in
162 **Table 6**, comparing males versus females. There was a significant difference between males and
163 females for performance on the Motor domain ($p = .02$). The remaining comparisons were not
164 significant.

165 According to NAA15-010's caregiver, they were diagnosed with focal seizures in early
166 adolescence (**Supplemental 1**). In conjunction to the focal seizure diagnosis, the patient
167 developed catatonia after chronic mold exposure leading to a leading diagnosis of Pediatric
168 Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) (Gagliano et al., 2023). The caregivers ordered
169 independent mold testing of their residence (**Supplemental 2**) and a urine fungal toxin panel
170 (**Supplemental 3**) in hopes of providing additional evidence to support the diagnosis. According
171 to the fungal toxin panel, the levels of gliotoxin and trichothecene were present in the 50th-99th
172 percentile. While the lab did not reference the range at which the percentiles were set, gliotoxin
173 is associated with *Aspergillus* and trichothecene with *Fusarium* (Janik et al., 2021; Ye et al.,
174 2021). The lack of treatment received for their PANS-associated catatonia over an approximately
175 ten-year period is NAA15-010's caregiver's explanation for their stark decrease in function
176 (**Supplemental 1**).

177 NAA15-034, in contrast to NAA15-010, performed better on the Vineland-3 assessments
178 compared to the rest of the tested cohort. NAA15-034 did not have childhood exposure to mold
179 or other toxins, according to caregiver reports, but does have a history of hyperbaric oxygen
180 therapy (HBOT) (two sessions daily) that was started on the recommendation of clinicians who

181 believed the proband had intellectual disability with static encephalopathy or possibly a
182 mitochondrial disease. NAA15-034 had her first session at before the age of 2 years, at which
183 time she was, according to correspondence with the caregivers, one year behind
184 developmentally, being unable to crawl or support weight on her legs. On day 4, after the 8th
185 session, NAA15-034 crawled and was able to bear weight on her legs for the first time. NAA15-
186 034 continued to have HBOT sessions until around 5 years old. At that time, she had caught up
187 developmentally with their peer group. Further information regarding NAA15-034, and their
188 disease progression and associated symptoms, is currently being written up in a case report
189 highlighting their progress with HBOT.

190

191 **Discussion**

192 Individuals with *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental syndrome performed significantly
193 worse than the mean on the Vineland-3. This difference was expected, as the expression of the
194 NatA complex is ubiquitous across tissue types and plays a prominent role in development
195 (Cheng et al., 2020; Liszczak et al., 2013; Lyon et al., 2023). However, individuals with *NAA15*
196 variants (n=27, mean=68.5) perform significantly better, on average, than individuals with
197 *NAA10* variants (n=58, ABC mean=40.4) (Makwana et al., 2024). NAA10 is the catalytic subunit
198 of the NatA complex where NAA15 is an auxiliary subunit. In the presence of NAA15, NAA10
199 localizes to the ribosome and preferentially acetylates N-termini Ser, Ala, Thr, Val, and Gly
200 (Arnesen et al., 2005; Park & Szostak, 1992). In the absence of NAA15, NAA10 has been shown
201 to acetylate acidic N-termini residues and localize to the cytoplasm suggesting additional
202 function independent of the NatA complex (Liszczak et al., 2013; Van Damme et al., 2011).
203 NAA10 has also been shown *in vitro* to affect dendritic arborization, such that both over and

204 under expression of the protein leads to abnormal dendritic development (Chou et al., 2024;
205 Ohkawa et al., 2008). Animal models have shown that abnormalities in dendritic arborization
206 during development can lead to Autism Spectrum Disorder-like behavior suggesting NAA10
207 specifically may play an even larger role in cognitive development by itself than as part of the
208 NatA complex (Barón-Mendoza et al., 2021; Martínez-Cerdeño, 2017). Given the greater
209 functional significance of a working NAA10 protein, it stands to reason that *NAA10* related
210 neurodevelopmental syndrome would have a more severe presentation than that of *NAA15*
211 related neurodevelopmental syndrome.

212 When comparing performance by sex, the females with *NAA15* variants, on average,
213 performed better than the males. Except for two participants with an unknown inheritance
214 pattern, all *NAA15* pathogenic variants in this cohort occurred *de novo*. The difference in sex is
215 unexpected, however, it could be due to small sample sizes. Additionally, given that 23 out of 25
216 pathogenic variants in this cohort are unique (**Table 1**), it was not possible to assess whether the
217 differences between sexes are significant at a genotype level. Further research with a larger
218 cohort should be conducted to identify recurrent pathogenic variants and their impacts, if any, on
219 functional and cognitive outcomes.

220 While females performed, on average, better than males across all adaptive domains, they
221 performed significantly better on the motor domain and fine motor sub-domain portions of the
222 Vineland. Pathogenic variants in *NAA15* have been associated with infant onset dystonia in a few
223 individuals (Cheng et al., 2018; Danti et al., 2024; Lyon et al., 2023; Yubero et al., 2022), which
224 could be one reason why the cohort performed worse on motor tasks compared to the norm
225 population. However, there did not appear to be a difference in the presentation of
226 musculoskeletal manifestations between the sexes in the referenced literature. Furthermore, there

227 is a case where an *NAA15* variant led to adult-onset parkinsonism in a man presenting with other
228 manifestations of *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental syndrome, such as speech delay and
229 intellectual disability (Straka et al., 2022). Continued genetic testing of individuals with adult-
230 onset dystonia and longitudinal monitoring of the current cohort for motor disorders would be
231 necessary to help determine if the difference in motor function between male and females is due
232 to chance, sex differences, or pathogenic variant type.

233 In aggregate, it is difficult to determine if there is an overall increase or decrease in
234 function over time in the participants. However, when comparing performance by sex, there is a
235 negative correlation between adaptive behavior in females and age. The decline with age has the
236 strongest correlation between the coping, domestic, and fine motor sub-domains. With a decline
237 in fine motor capacity, it would stand to reason that an individual's ability to take care of oneself
238 (domestic) would also decline. However, both the domestic and fine motor sub-domains have
239 age restrictions leading to unequal administration of those portions of the exam creating an even
240 smaller population size to compare from (Farmer et al., 2020; Perry et al., 2009, p. 3).
241 Furthermore, this decline in function contradicts the mild recovery in gross motor, personal-
242 social, and language development function previously reported in the literature (Cheng et al.,
243 2018, 2020; Tian et al., 2022). However, some previous reports of mild functional recovery, such
244 as that by Tian et al. in 2022, were limited by small sample size (n=4). This study also used the
245 Children Neuropsychological and Behavior Scale-Revision (CNBS-R2016) and Ages and Stages
246 Questionnaires (ASQ), rather than Vineland-3, making direct comparisons more difficult. The
247 decline in the coping sub-domain in the females could also be partially explained by the decrease
248 in motor skills, as there is evidence that similar motor declines in those with Autism Spectrum
249 Disorder (ASD) have led to decreased coping and socialization skills overall (Peyre et al., 2024;

250 Raditha et al., 2023). Additionally, several patients in this cohort ranged from ages 11 to 17, a
251 time period that is traditionally tumultuous for adolescents due to various physical and hormonal
252 changes, and is associated with increased stress for those with ASD (Cridland et al., 2014;
253 Steward et al., 2018; Tager-Flusberg & Kasari, 2013). Ultimately, follow up studies need to be
254 performed on this cohort to determine if they are continuing to show decline over time, if there is
255 a bottoming-out effect, or if they begin to improve after navigating adolescence.

256 In contrast to the female decline over time, males when analyzed without NAA15-010
257 have a moderate increase in adaptive function with age. However, there are not strong
258 correlations present in any subsequent sub-domain analysis performed. Additionally, when
259 including NAA15-010, there were no or small correlations between Vineland score and age.

260 NAA15-010 was removed from the analysis due to their having performed much worse
261 than the rest of their cohort. One explanation for their decreased performance could be due to
262 their focal seizures as there is evidence suggesting adolescent onset seizures are associated with
263 nonspecific neurodevelopmental declines (Dreier et al., 2019; Nickels et al., 2016). Another
264 explanation for the decrease in performance could be the presence of *Aspergillus* and *Fusarium*
265 in the proband's urine. Various case reports have suggested that there is a link between the
266 presence of *Aspergillus* and Autism Spectrum Disorder (Baker & Shaw, 2020; Markova, 2019)
267 and schizophrenia (Bettoni et al., 1984). Thus, while there are no reported cases of PANS
268 associated with *Aspergillus* colonization, the diagnosis could explain both the proband's
269 catatonia and decline (Rogers et al., 2019). This once again highlights that the trajectory of any
270 genetic disease, including "Mendelian" ones, can be dramatically altered by environmental, other
271 genetic, or stochastic influences (Lyon & O'Rawe, 2015, pp. 289–318).

272 Despite NAA15-010 and NAA15-034 being two of the oldest probands in the cohort,
273 NAA15-034 markedly outperformed NAA15-010 across Vineland domains. They also
274 performed markedly better than the rest of the study cohort. An explanation for this could be the
275 multiple HBOT sessions NAA15-034 underwent throughout development. HBOT is clinically
276 indicated for various conditions such as gas emboli, thermal burn injury, carbon monoxide
277 poisoning, and central retinal artery occlusion among others (Ortega et al., 2021). The therapy
278 acts to increase angiogenesis and wound healing, exerts antimicrobial effects, and helps rapidly
279 alter circulating O₂ levels (Ortega et al., 2021). HBOT also has some theoretical indications for
280 use in cancer treatment (Lu et al., 2019; Thews & Vaupel, 2015), immune modulation (Novak et
281 al., 2016; Resanovic et al., 2019), and as a neuroprotective agent (Chazalviel et al., 2016; Zhou
282 et al., 2016). A clinical trial has shown that HBOT may have some efficacy in improving
283 symptoms in pediatric post-concussive syndrome (Hadanny et al., 2022). Multiple trials,
284 however, have shown little evidence for HBOT in improving adaptive behavior in autism
285 spectrum disorder (ASD) (Bent et al., 2012; El-Tellawy et al., 2022; Sampanthavivat et al.,
286 2012). NAA15-related neurodevelopmental disorder presents with similar behavioral deficits to
287 ASD, but has a known genetic deficit whereas ASD represents a spectrum of different etiologies
288 leading to a similar over-arching cognitive phenotype. This difference may explain the lack of
289 HBOT effect in traditional ASD cohorts. Future work could consider treating any NAA15 mouse
290 models with HBOT to better understand the mechanism of effect and to identify an initial safety
291 profile.

292 The overall decrease in female adaptive behavior scores and the overall significantly
293 decreased male adaptive scores suggest that there is an urgent need for additional studies and
294 development of interventions for *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental disorder. Future research

295 should aim to complete the clinical timeline as best as possible. The present cohort only included
296 individuals up to the age of 25 due to the rarity of the disease. Without insights into the later
297 stages of the disorder, it is more difficult for clinicians to guide caregivers on what to expect at
298 different stages of a patient's life.

299 *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental disorder is thought to be caused by
300 haploinsufficiency (Cheng et al., 2018; Tian et al., 2022). For this mechanism of disease, there
301 are several therapies in development that show promise in cell lines and animal models in similar
302 disorders, such as Rett Syndrome and Angelman Syndrome, to help restore protein function and
303 dosage to adequate levels (Albadri et al., 2017; Burbano et al., 2022; Hill & Meisler, 2021;
304 Milazzo et al., 2021; Palmieri et al., 2023; Protic et al., 2019). More recently, a case of hereditary
305 spastic paraplegia type 50 was treated with intrathecal delivery of an AAV9 encoded viral vector.
306 Investment in similar interventions for *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental syndrome, if
307 implemented early enough, may restore protein function and restore adaptive behavior
308 functioning in affected patients (Dowling et al., 2024).

309 **Conclusion**

310 *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental disorder is closely related to Ogden Syndrome
311 (*NAA10*-related neurodevelopmental disorder), as both the *NAA15* and *NAA10* proteins are part
312 of the NatA complex. *NAA15* plays a supporting role by helping to bring the complex to the
313 ribosome, with dysfunction leading to clinical manifestations in the heart, musculoskeletal
314 system, and brain. The pathogenic variants in *NAA15*-related neurodevelopmental disorder are
315 heterozygous, so there is still one functioning copy of *NAA15*, meaning that the NatA complex
316 can still form, but likely with haploinsufficiency. As such, *NAA15* pathogenic variants usually
317 present less severely than those with pathogenic *NAA10* variants. Repeated Vineland-3

318 administration to a cohort of 27 patients with unique *de novo* NAA15 pathogenic variants has
319 revealed the natural history of the disease, showcasing an overall decrease in adaptive
320 functioning compared to the norm from infancy till adolescence. Females tended to perform on
321 average better than males. However, over time, females showed a decline in function whereas
322 males showed an increase. Additional natural history studies need to be performed to understand
323 disease outcomes outside of adolescence, difference between sexes, and to identify outliers who
324 perform significantly better or worse than their peers, so genetic or environmental factors
325 influencing disease can be identified.

326 **Supplemental Information**

327 **S1. NAA15-010 Caregiver Report**

328 **S2. Anonymized Mold Report**

329 **S3. Anonymized Fungal Toxin Report**

330

331 **Author Contributions**

332 GJL and RH conducted all virtual interviews with participants and were responsible for
333 primary Vineland data collection, with data curation conducted by EM. RM and CC were
334 responsible for data analysis and project conception, along with GJL. The first draft of the
335 manuscript was written by RM and CC, with critical revision performed by GJL and RP at
336 several points.

337 **Acknowledgments**

338 We thank the families and the foundation, Ogden CARES for their participation and support. We
339 thank Ellen Israel for assistance with data collection early on in the project.

340

341 **Ethical Approval**

342 Both oral and written patient consent were obtained for research and publication, with
343 approval of protocol #7659 for the Jervis Clinic by the New York State Psychiatric Institute
344 Institutional Review Board.

345

346 **Competing Interests**

347 The authors declare that they have no competing interests or personal relationships that
348 could have influenced the work reported in this paper.

349

350 **Data Availability**

351 All data are deidentified to protect patient privacy, and the underlying data cannot be
352 shared due to these same privacy restrictions.

353

354 **Funding**

355 This work is supported by New York State Office for People with Developmental
356 Disabilities (OPWDD) and NIH NIGMS R35-GM-133408.

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691

692 **Tables:**

693 **Table 1. NAA15 Pathogenic Variant Breakdown by Sex**

Pathogenic Variant	Males	Females
p.Arg27Gly	1	
p.His80Argfs*17	2	
p.Trp83X		1
p.Asn113Ser		1
p.Glu173*	1	
p.Glu173NfsX54	1	
p.Tyr333*	1	
p.Asp335Glufs*7	1	
p.Asn362MetfsX36		1
p.Cys484Arg	1	
p.Arg549X	1	
p.Ala585Thr	1	
p.Gln621*	1	
p.Asn623Ilefs*	1	
p.Lys628Glu	1	
p.Ala678Cysfs*3	1	
p.Tyr682*		1
p.Ala719Thr	1	
p.Arg782X		1
p.Ile796Thr	1	
p.Asn864Ser		1
c.0692-1G>T (intronic)	1	
c.139+2T>A: IVS2+2T>A (intronic)		1
c.1087+2T>C (intronic)		1
c.1753+1G>A (splice site)	1	
c.2057-2A>G (splice site)		1
Total: 27	18	9

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696 **Table 2. Vineland ABC and Domain Standard Scores by Sex**

	Communication	Daily Living Skills	Social	Motor	ABC Standard
Total Average	64.1	70.2	72.7	71.1	68.5
SD	26.7	21.1	23.9	17.5	22.1
Female Average	70.0	75.4	78.2	83.2	74.9
SD	28.4	22.9	23.8	11.6	24.4
Male Average	60.9	67.4	69.6	63.9	65.0
SD	25.1	19.5	23.3	16.4	20.0
t test	0.27	0.22	0.24	0.01*	0.15

697 *Asterisk denotes significance (p<.05)

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702 **Table 3. Correlation Coefficients of Vineland Domain Standard Scores vs Age**

	Communication	Daily Living Skills	Social	Motor	ABC
Female Correlation Coefficient	-0.49	-0.58	-0.46	-0.71	-0.51
Male Correlation Coefficient	-0.15	-0.27	-0.31	0.15	-0.28
Male Correlation Coefficient excluding ID: NAA15-010	0.35	0.49	0.26	0.15	0.38

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704 **Table 4. Vineland Sub-Domain Standard Scores by Domain and Sex**

	Communication Sub-Domain			Daily Living Skills Sub-Domain		
	Receptive	Expressive	Written	Personal	Domestic	Community
Total	8.46	8.46	9.26	8.75	10.60	8.88
Average						
SD	4.79	5.41	5.09	5.17	3.60	3.60
Female	10.18	9.06	9.07	10.35	11.21	8.50
Average						
SD	4.62	5.79	5.61	5.27	4.02	3.46
Male	7.52	8.13	9.34	7.87	10.31	9.07
Average						
SD	4.61	5.17	4.82	4.90	3.33	3.66
t-test	0.07	0.58	0.87	0.12	0.45	0.64

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	Socialization Sub-Domain			Motor Sub-Domain		Maladaptive Trait Sub-Domain	
	Interpersonal Relations	Play and Leisure	Coping	Gross Motor	Fine Motor	Internalizing	Externalizing
Total							
Average	9.54	9.48	10.85	9.25	9.88	18.30	17.00
SD	5.04	5.19	3.41	3.59	4.27	3.64	3.11
Female							
Average	10.47	10.35	11.27	10.44	13.33	18.27	16.18
SD	5.61	5.05	3.19	2.22	3.53	2.99	2.48
Male							
Average	9.03	9.00	10.65	8.53	7.80	18.32	17.47
SD	4.62	5.20	3.49	4.03	3.19	3.97	3.33
t-test	0.36	0.40	0.57	0.22	0.001*	0.98	0.29

706 *Asterisk denotes significance ($p < .05$) between Male and Female scores

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709 **Table 5. Correlation Coefficients of Vineland Sub-Domain Standard Scores vs Age**

	Communication Sub-Domain			Daily Living Skills Sub-Domain		
	Receptive	Expressive	Written	Personal	Domestic	Community
Female Correlation Coefficient	-0.49	-0.33	-0.41	-0.43	-0.50	-0.28
Male Correlation Coefficient	-0.07	-0.06	-0.41	0.07	-0.68	-0.39
Male Correlation excluding NAA15-010	0.39	0.40	-0.04	0.54	-0.15	0.22

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	Socialization Sub-Domain			Motor Sub-Domain	
	Interpersonal Relations	Play and Leisure	Coping	Gross Motor	Fine Motor
Female Correlation Coefficient	-0.19	-0.45	-0.57	-0.38	-0.82
Male Correlation Coefficient	-0.17	-0.17	-0.50	-0.10	-0.14
Male Correlation Excluding NAA15-010	0.31	0.27	0.04	-0.10	-0.14

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	Maladaptive Trait Sub-Domain	
	Internalizing	Externalizing
Female Correlation Coefficient	0.62	0.25
Male Correlation Coefficient	0.44	0.39
Male Correlation Excluding NAA15-010	0.43	-0.27

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717 **Table 6. Comparison of Vineland Adaptive Behavior Categories by Sex per Domain**

	Communication		Daily Living Skills		Socialization		Motor		ABC	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Moderately High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Adequate	3	4	5	6	8	5	1	4	4	4
Moderately Low	13	2	11	4	10	7	5	4	11	2
Low	12	10	13	7	10	5	9	1	13	10
χ^2	0.06		0.42		0.92		0.02*		0.11	

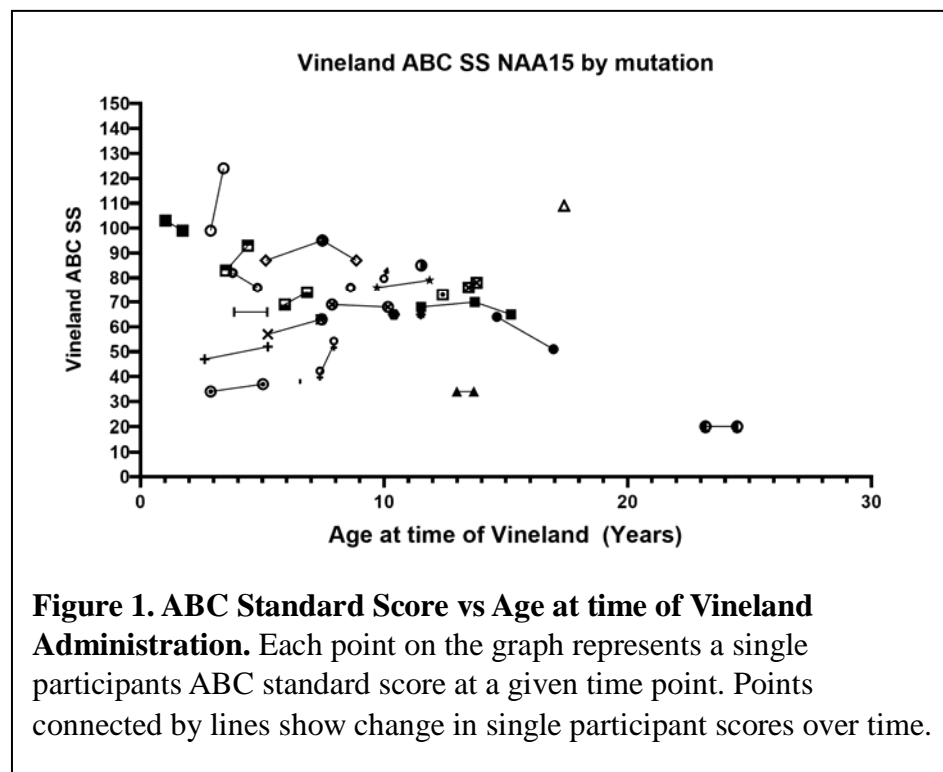
718 *Asterisk denotes significance ($p < .05$) between Male and Female scores

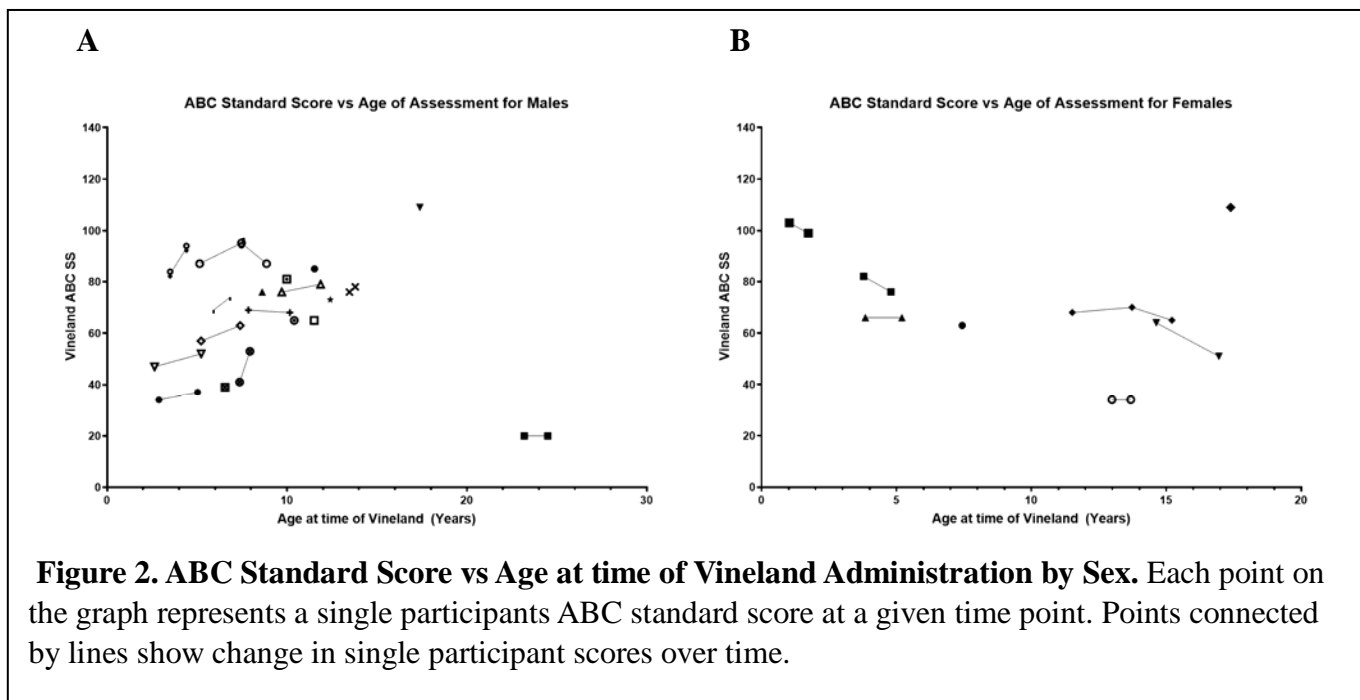
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722 **Figures:**





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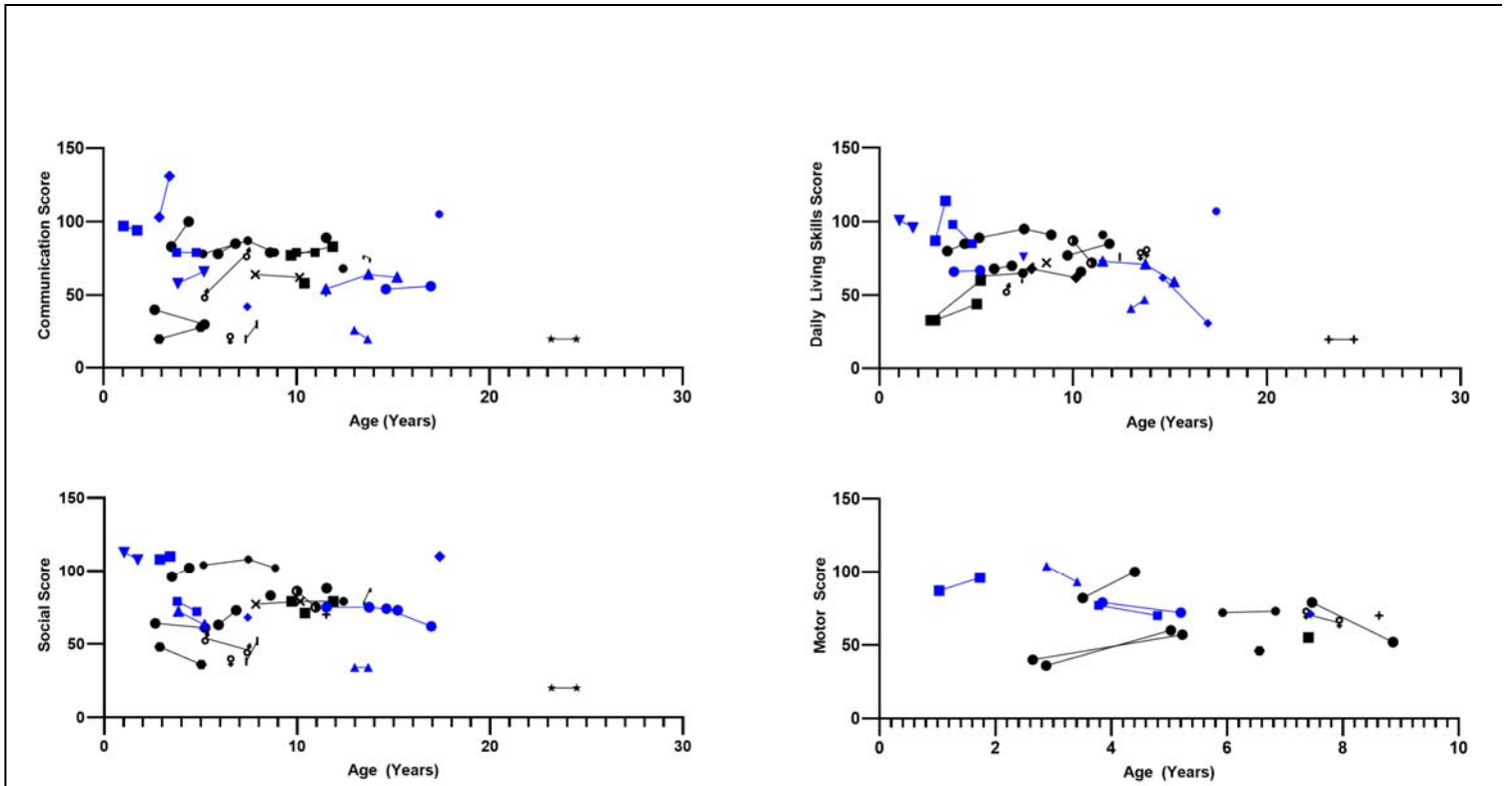


Figure 3. Vineland Domain Score vs Age at time of Vineland Assessment. Points in black represent Males. Points in Pink represent Females. Each point on the graph represents a single participants Vineland Domain standard score at a given time point. Points connected by lines show change in single participant scores over time.

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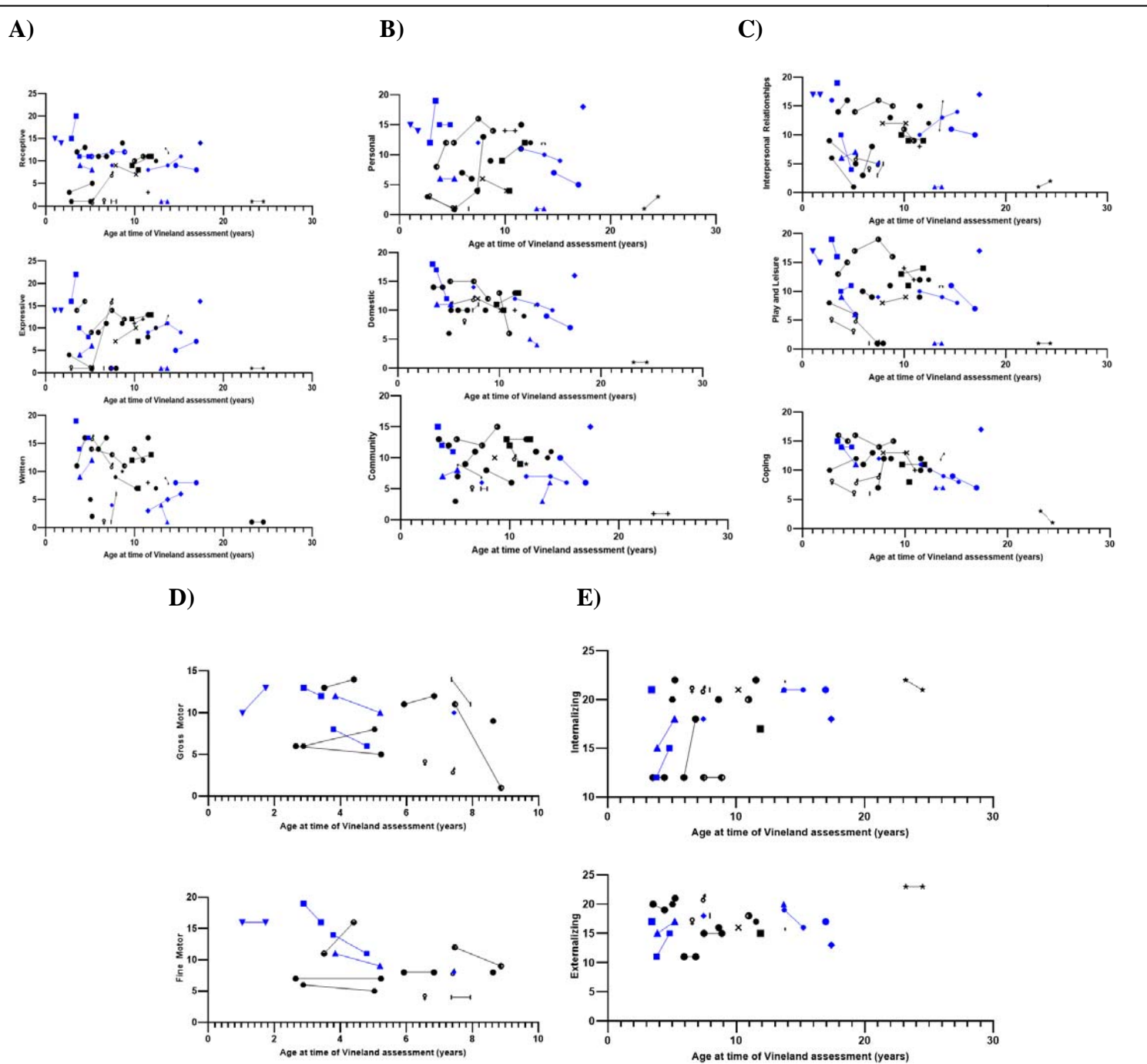


Figure 4. Vineland Sub-Domain Score vs Age at time of Assessment. A) Communication Sub-Domain Standard Scores. B) Daily Living Skills Sub-Domain Standard Scores. C) Socialization Sub-Domain Standard Scores. D) Motor Sub-Domain Standard Scores E) Maladaptive Trait Standard Scores. Points in black represent Males. Points in Blue represent Females. Each point on the graph represents a single participant's sub-domain standard score at a given time point. Points connected by lines show change in single participant scores over time.