

Physical Status and Nutrient Intake in Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Children Compared with Typically Developing Children

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BACKGROUND

The number of cases children with ASD has risen dramatically. Provisional evidence also suggests children with ASD may be at increased risk for nutritional and medical problem related to feeding behaviors, including nutrient deficiencies and growth problem.

METHOD

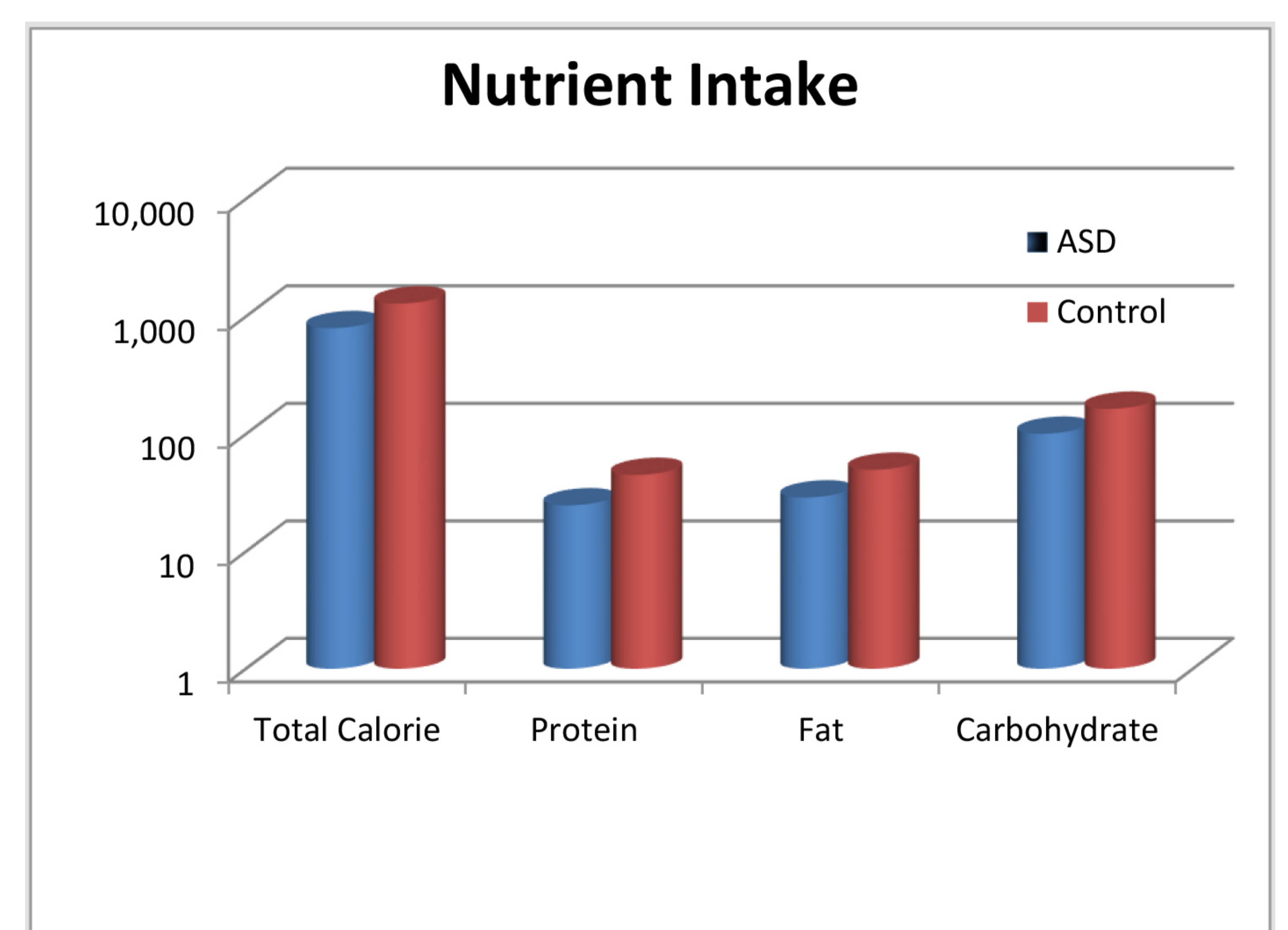
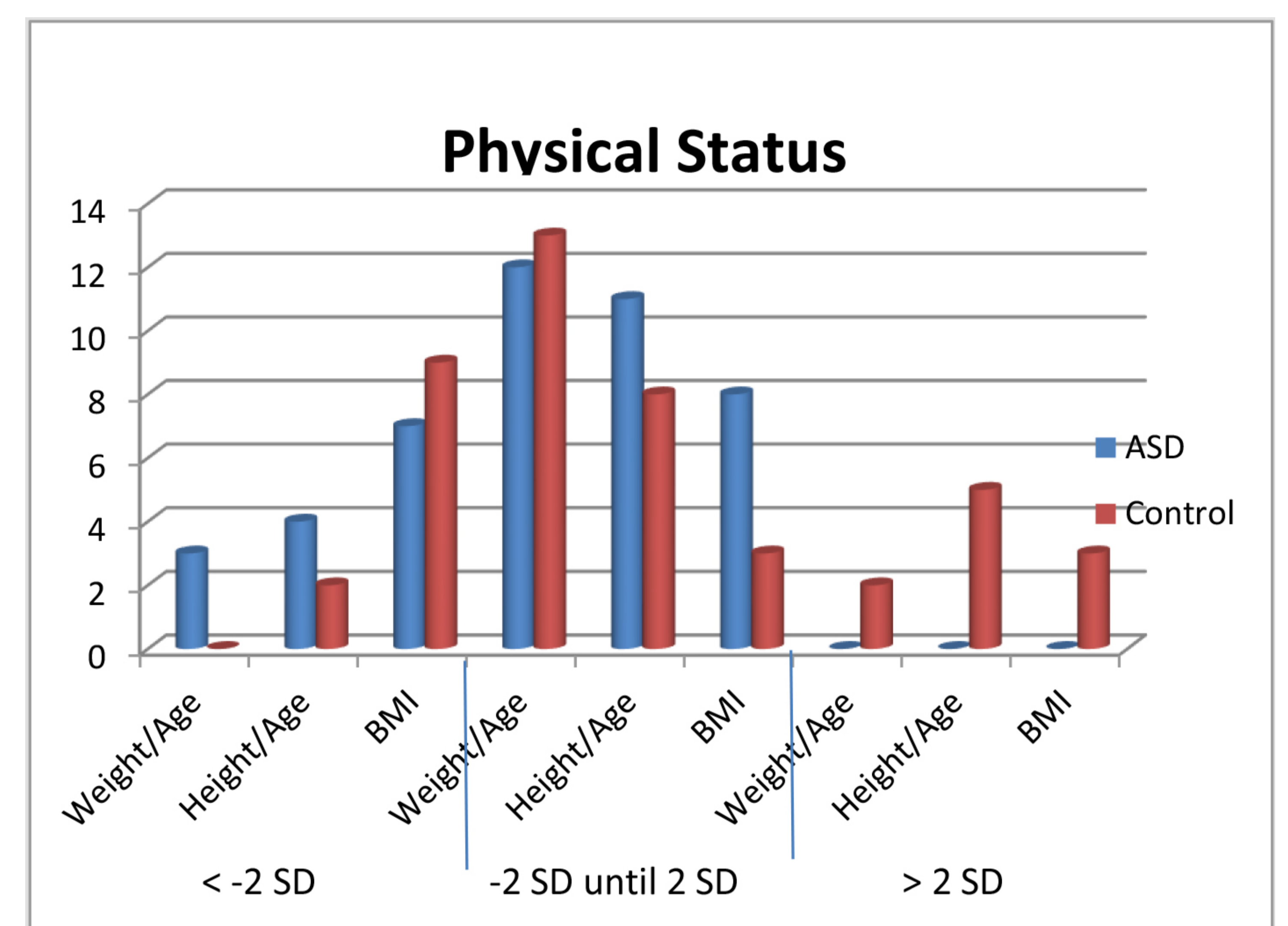
The research was conducted on 29 children aged 25 –75 months, 15 cases and 14 control in Zainab Hospital Pekanbaru. Nutrient intake through 3 day food record were taken. Physical status was determined in terms of height, weight and body mass index.

OBJECTIVE

To compare physical status, intake of energy and macronutrients among ASD children and Typically Developing (TD) children.

RESULT

There were significant difference weight for age (mean difference -4.05 kg, 95% confidence interval -7.77 to -0.32 kg, $p=0.03$) height for age (mean difference -10.35 cm, 95% confidence interval -18.87 to -1.82 cm, $p=0.01$) between ASD and TD children, but there was no significant difference in BMI percentile for age (mean difference -0.46, 95% confidence interval -3.37 to 2.44, $p=0.74$). Also, there was a significant difference in energy intake (mean difference -493.09, 95% confidence interval -698.13 to -288.06, $p=0.00$) between ASD and TD children.



CONCLUSION

TD children are significantly taller and heavier than children with ASD. TD children consume more energy than ASD children.