Autism
-Autistic disorder (Autism) is a chronic neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by the quantitative impairment of social, communicative and imaginative development.
-It is one of three recognized disorders in the autism spectrum (ASDS).
-The other 2 being Aspeger syndrome and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.
-NB: Other 2 in pervasive developmental disorder are Rett Syndrome and pervasive developmental disorder itself.
-Prevalence of autism is about 1-2 per 1,000 people
- 11 per 1000 people in USA in 2008.

Aetiology:
Autism is a syndrome of abnormal behaviours with multiple aetiologies. Autism has a strong genetic basis but the genetics of autism are complex and cannot be explained by rare mutations or rare combinations of genetic variants.
Complexity arises due to interactions among multiple gene and the environment.
Typically, autism cannot be traced to a mendelian (single gene) mutation or to a single chromosome abnormality.
Some pre, peri and post natal factors have been associated with autistic disorder. These include
- Antepartum hemorrhage
- High maternal age