CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Use of a composition in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating an autism spectrum disorder in a subject in need thereof, wherein the composition comprises a benzoic acid salt and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient thereof and wherein the dosage of the benzoic acid salt is in an amount ranging from 100 mg/day to 2000 mg/day.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the benzoic acid salt is sodium benzoate, potassium benzoate, calcium benzoate, 2-aminobenzoate, 3-aminobenzoate, or 4-aminobenzoate.

3. The use according to claim 1, wherein the benzoic acid salt is sodium benzoate.

4. The use according to claim 1, wherein the autism spectrum disorder is chosen from autism, Asperger's syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder or pervasive developmental disorder.

5. The use according to claim 1, wherein the subject is a child suffering from the autism spectrum disorder.

6. The use according to claim 5, wherein the subject is of age from 2 to 12 years old.

7. The use according to claim 5, wherein the subject is of age from 3 to 9 years old.

8. The use according to claim 5, wherein the subject is of age from 5 to 8 years old.

9. The use according to claim 1, wherein the dosage of the benzoic acid salt is in an amount ranging from 150 mg/day to 1000 mg/day.

10. The use according to claim 1, wherein the dosage of the benzoic acid salt is in an amount ranging from 200 mg/day to 750 mg/day.

11. The use according to claim 1, wherein the dosage of the benzoic acid salt is in an amount ranging from 250 mg/day to 500 mg/day.

12. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition is to be administered to the subject in a period ranging from 2 months to 2 years.

13. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition is to be administered to the subject in a period ranging from 4 weeks to 12 months.

14. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition is to be administered to the subject in a period of around 12 weeks.