

Empathy and Adaptive Behavior as Predictors of Neurodevelopmental Functioning in Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The discussion on "adaptive behavior" should include more recent studies to ensure the literature review is up-to-date. For example, consider including the latest findings from 2022 or 2023 to enhance the relevance of the literature cited.

The description of the Vineland-3 should be more concise. Highlight key features and psychometric properties, but avoid overly lengthy descriptions that may detract from the flow of the methods section.

The Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) is described in detail, but the justification for its use in this specific population could be expanded. Why is the IRI particularly suitable for adolescents with ASD?

The Adaptive Behavior Assessment System Third Edition (ABAS-3) description lacks information about its applicability to diverse populations. Include details on how this tool has been validated for use in adolescents with ASD.

The statistical assumptions tested for the regression analysis are described well. However, provide more detail on how these assumptions were specifically checked, such as any diagnostic plots or tests used.

The limitations section should address the potential impact of the cross-sectional design on the findings more explicitly. Explain how this design limits the ability to draw causal inferences and suggest ways future research could address this limitation.

The sentence "Interventions targeting these areas can positively impact the overall development" is too general. Specify what types of interventions (e.g., cognitive-behavioral therapy, social skills training) could be beneficial based on the study's findings.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "Empathy deficits in individuals with ASD may contribute to their social communication challenges" needs clarification. It would be beneficial to include specific examples or studies that support this claim to provide more context for readers.

The sampling method described as "using the Morgan and Krejcie table" should be detailed further. Specify the exact process used to determine the sample size and how participants were selected to ensure replicability of the study.

The exclusion criteria mentioned include "significant sensory impairments or other neurological conditions." Please clarify how these conditions were assessed and who determined the eligibility of the participants.

The demographic breakdown of the sample is detailed, but there is no discussion on how these demographics may impact the results. Include a brief discussion on potential demographic influences on neurodevelopmental functioning, empathy, and adaptive behavior.

Table 1 caption could be more informative. Instead of just listing "Descriptive statistics for Neurodevelopmental Functioning Empathy and Adaptive Behavior," provide a brief explanation of what the table aims to convey.

The regression results are clear, but the table lacks confidence intervals for the regression coefficients. Adding confidence intervals would provide a better sense of the precision of the estimates.

The phrase "these deficits can lead to difficulties in social interactions and relationships" is repeated from the introduction. This repetition should be avoided or rephrased to maintain the originality of the discussion.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.