

May 24, 2021

Dear editor,

Please find attached files of revised manuscript in word format

Title: Health-related risky behaviors and their risk factors in adolescents with high-functioning autism

Author: Yajing Sun¹, Lingzi Xu², Zenghui Ma³, Yulu Yang⁴, Tingni Yin⁵, Xiaoyun Gong⁶, Zilin Gao⁷, Yanling Liu⁸, Jing Liu (Corresponding author)

Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 66561

First of all, thank you for your careful guidance of this article. Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

Reviewer: 06078824

Dear author, this paper comprehensively explores health-related risky behaviors in a large sample of adolescents with high-functioning autism and provide better understanding of health-related risky behaviors in adolescents with high-functioning autism. The article is written with the good English-speaking adduction of the arguments. The article is sufficiently novel and very interesting to warrant publication. The Results are presented clearly and have been discussed well. The most discussable options in the article are: 1) Would you please kindly correct all your little typos and grammar errors throughout the manuscript. 2) There are many scales used in the research. The author's description in the materials and methods is very detailed, which is very good, but what I want to say is whether it is necessary to list all the scales in detail in the main text? Is it possible to provide these related scales in the supplementary materials and simply describe them in the manuscript?

Answer:

- (1) After receiving the comments, we read the article carefully and found some small loopholes in the language of the article and made modifications.
- (2) I revised the scales and provided more details in the supplementary materials.

Reviewer: 06078811

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder with an increasing incidence rate. Most of previous researchers focused on single risky behaviors with high-functioning autism and didn't comprehensively describe the health-related risky behaviors in autistic individuals. Related risk factors have not been fully explored, either. Therefore, in order to comprehensively explore health-related risky behaviors in a large sample of adolescents with high-functioning autism, the authors conducted the current study using the AHRBI. They also explored factors associated with HRBs in adolescents with HFA. This cross-sectional study enrolled 110 adolescents aged 12-19 years old meeting DSM-IV criteria for high-functioning autism and 110 age, sex, and nationality all matched controls. They found that individuals with high-functioning autism had more aggression and violence, suicide or self-injury, health-compromising behavior, and unprotected sex than neurotypical teenagers. Among the associated factors, poor emotional experience, depression, low IQ score, low score of theory of mind test, poor adaptation to school life experience were risk factors. Through this cross-sectional study, they found that adolescents with high-functioning autism have more health-related risky behaviors than neurotypical adolescents. Different health-related risky behaviors have different reasons. This is a very interesting study. And the manuscript is well written. The introduction part is detailed and comprehensive, involving a lot of background knowledge, and citing a lot of literature to introduce the research status of autistic adolescents. In addition, the manuscript also introduces the limitations of the research and the direction of follow-up research. I really thank for a useful and important synopsis of this important topic. I only have a small question. The title of Table 1 is "Demographic characteristics of the autism and control groups (personal information)", but there are two contents in the table "Paternal education" and "Maternal education". Should this belong to the contents in Table 2? From my point of view, this is the content of Family information. Please explain your consideration of dividing the table in this way.

Answer: I agree with your suggestion. "Paternal education" and "Maternal education" should belong to the contents in Table 2. Description in this way is more appropriate. I edited the chart and moved these two contents to the Table 2.

What's more, according to the magazine suggestion, I changed the style of the references. Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Clinical Cases.

Sincerely Yours,
Jing Liu