

## **Reply to the Reviewer/Editor.**

Dear Respected Editor/Reviewer

Good day

Thank you very much for the comprehensive review and the precious time you spent reviewing this study. We did the advised changes and answered the queries. All the changes were marked in red for easy tracking by the reviewer. The manuscript looks much better with these changes, and we tried to improve the language as we could. Thank you again for your precious assistance.

Here we are replying point by point:

### **Reviewer 1:**

**Thank you very much for your positive feedback and helpful suggestions.**

In this non-systematic review of about 14,000 words and 228 references, the literature on the relationship between gastrointestinal disorders and autism spectrum disorders is analyzed. The title is based on the assumption that the control of gastrointestinal manifestations reduces the severity of autism. However, in addition to exploring the concurrence and possible interaction with the same etiological factors (brain-intestine interaction), it does not offer specific features for the therapeutic management of gastrointestinal diseases in patients with autism spectrum disorders. In all situations, the need for an individualized multidisciplinary approach without detailing for each type of clinical manifestation is mentioned. Changing the title could lower readers' expectations and allow one to get to know the interesting literature compiled.

**Our Reply:** All the points mentioned by the reviewers were corrected and highlighted in red. We changed the title to Role of Gastrointestinal Health in Managing Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### **Reviewer 2:**

I read the manuscript titled "Gastrointestinal Health as a Crucial Key for the Proper Management of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder" with great interest. The

authors performed an extensive review of the literature on ASD and GI health issues. The article was written in an organized manner. The evidences were presented systematically with careful interpretation of the data. Many new findings were included in this review. The authors acknowledge the limitation of cited studies adequately.

**Our Reply:**

Thank you very much for the precious time you spent reviewing the article. Also, we appreciate your supportive comments.

Below are my suggestions:

1. Introduction, paragraph 1, "Autism spectrum disorder" is the preferred umbrella term rather than autism. In the DSM-V criteria, Asperger and PDD-NOS is grouped under ASD. Suggest to rephrase the sentence.

**Our Reply:** We rephrased the sentence.

2. Suggest using the term either "ASD" or "autism" throughout the article for consistency.

**Our Reply:** We corrected all of them throughout the article.

3. Please check the reference '[2120]' on page 58

**Our Reply:** Thank you very much correction was done to 220

4. Suggest writing more succinctly, especially on heading for GI symptoms such as "GE Reflex", "diarrhea", and "abdominal pain," as there was a significant overlap of information and repetition.

**Our Reply:** Thank you very much; we tried to remove redundancy as we could.

Good luck.

**Our Reply:**

Thank you very much for the precious time you spent reviewing the article. Also, we appreciate your supportive comments.

**LANGUAGE POLISHING:**

Native English-speaker did language polishing

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

The basic rules on abbreviations were strictly followed

## **EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS:**

**All the editorial instructions were followed in finalizing this manuscript.**

On behalf of all authors, we thank the editors and reviewers for their support during the publication of this manuscript.

Many thanks

Professor Mohammed Al-Biltagi