

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Psychiatry

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7520

**Title:** Cognitive inflexibility in Japanese adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders

**Reviewer code:** 02445219

**Science editor:** Qi, Yuan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-23 18:12

**Date reviewed:** 2013-11-25 22:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	language polishing	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is a relatively well performed study. I like especially the matching of the patients and the probands. There are some issues which are not obvious to me: 1. Why is the CPT not mentioned in the introduction, results (table) and discussion section. 2. The WAIS-III should be mentioned before the WSCT in the methods section. 3. The manuscript gives almost no information on ASD and general neuropsychological findings which are important in this special research field. One should not only focus on the WCST. 4. What new information is provided by this study?

**ESPS Peer-review Report**

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Psychiatry

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7520

**Title:** Cognitive inflexibility in Japanese adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders

**Reviewer code:** 00426994

**Science editor:** Qi, Yuan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-23 18:12

**Date reviewed:** 2013-12-16 09:39

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors proposed to compare the cognitive flexibility between ASD and healthy controls matched by age, education level, 1. The study design was well-conducted. The results in this study could provide clinical evidence to understand what cognitive inflexibility in ASD. However, some issues need to clarify in more details. Overall, some grammatical errors in the manuscript may confuse readers, the authors are recommended to ask for a native-English editor 2. In Introduction, several studies have been demonstrated the cognitive inflexibility in ASD, the authors should have a comprehensive review to give a rationale of how their study could contribute more. References: Bramham, J., Ambery, F., Young, S., Morris, R., Russell, A., Xenitidis, K., . . . Murphy, D. (2009). Executive functioning differences between adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autistic spectrum disorder in initiation, planning and strategy formation. *Autism*, 13(3), 245-264. doi:10.1177/1362361309103790 Sinzig, J., Morsch, D., Bruning, N., Schmidt, M., & Lehmkuhl, G. (2008). Inhibition, flexibility, working memory and planning in autism spectrum disorders with and without comorbid ADHD-symptoms. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 2(1), 4. Van Eylen, L., Boets, B., Steyaert, J., Evers, K., Wagemans, J., & Noens, I. (2011). Cognitive flexibility in autism spectrum disorder: Explaining the inconsistencies? *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 5(4), 1390-1401. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2011.01.025> 3. Although previous studies in ASD were focused on children, the authors should make their rationale and importance of studying in adolescents and adults compared to matched normal controls. 4. The WCST has been well-established to examine the executive function in ASD, either computerized or original one. The authors should review such information in more details. 5. Although the authors compared the matched ASD and controls and found no significant differences in IQs, the ASD group the authors



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recruited might be high-functioning or with normal IQ. The authors should discuss this comparison in Discussion section.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Psychiatry

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7520

**Title:** Cognitive inflexibility in Japanese adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders

**Reviewer code:** 02445209

**Science editor:** Qi, Yuan

**Date sent for review:** 2013-11-23 18:12

**Date reviewed:** 2014-01-06 15:15

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Authors, I only have a few comments on your manuscript: - Abstract: It seems strange that there is no Introduction/Background section in your abstract. - Introduction - the 4th line from above: You quote DSM-IV, but DSM-V has already been published in May 2013, it would be better to quote DSM-V. - Table 2 - remarks below the table: I do not understand your statement "Differences in the clinical characteristics were analyzed using the chi-square test for gender..." The data in the Table 2 seems not to be related to gender of the study subjects. - Suppl. 1: I do not understand the statement below the table "Data are represented as the mean plus minus SD." I do not see any means or SDs in the table, only rs and p values are present. Best regards The reviewer