

April 28, 2015



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17421-review.doc).

Title: Motor abilities of children and adolescents with a psychiatric condition: A systematic literature review

Author: Tine Van Damme, Johan Simons, Bernard Sabbe, Dirk van West

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers (all changes are highlighted in the text).

1 The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

Reviewer 1 (02445261)

- The rationale for our choice of the four psychiatric conditions is added in the introduction (pg. 7)
- '...an increased risk of affective disorders such as anxiety and depression has been reported in children and adolescents with motor difficulties,... I also suggest to specify whether and how this type of association may increase the risk of suicide'. We agree that this is an interesting point of view. Current research supports the idea of an association between motor impairment and depressive symptomatology. However, we were unable to find a study that specifically investigates the relationship between motor impairment and suicide risk. So this issue remains unanswered.
- Some examples of 'secondary adverse outcomes' were added in the text.
- The term ERIC database is explained in full
- The specific contributions of the authors are added in the 'data extraction and systematic review process'
- '...Serafini et al. (Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2014;23(11):1023-41) conducted a systematic review in which they found more white matter abnormalities in children and adolescents with bipolar disease than in those with unipolar disease. I suggest to cite and discuss this paper throughout the following Discussion section and to specify whether in the authors' opinion some neurodevelopmental changes and early brain changes may be considered as diagnostic-specific in children and adolescents'. We have read the review and the insights are indeed very interesting. However, the main purpose of this review was to map out the existing research concerning motor ability in individuals with a psychiatric condition. As research concerning neurobiological underpinnings of depression, ASD, ADHD and behavioral disorders is substantial, we believe that adding this information will be abundant and would lead to a shift of the main focus of our review. We therefore feel that discussing (despite being important and relevant) underlying neurobiological aspects is beyond the scope of the review.
- '...Why the authors included three studies that did not meet the main aims of the study?' The three studies that the reviewer is referring to should indeed be included, as they address motor ability. In the previous paragraph, we state that most research investigating children <6 years focuses on

motor development, which can be differentiated from motor ability (see introduction).

- We referred to the standardized motor assessment instruments, the MABC-2 and BOT-2.

Reviewer 2 (00485141)

- In the abstract, the psychiatric conditions are specified in the conclusion.
- The rationale for our choice of the four psychiatric conditions is added in the introduction (pg. 7)
- Differences between children and adolescents could not be specified based on current knowledge. This information was added in the discussion (pg. 15).
- A limitation section was added to the discussion.
- The flow chart was adjusted according to the suggestions
- '...In the depression paragraph, authors mention the one paper by Emck. Did they study depression or only any emotional disorder? If not specifically depression this should be mentioned already in methods.' This study did include individuals with a depression and other emotional disorders, but they did not mention / differentiate in their analyses between the types of emotional disorder.
- The number of participants in the control group is mentioned in the Appendix under the heading 'Comparison/Control group'.
- No longitudinal studies were included. This issue is discussed on page 15.
- 'The excluded studies, e.g. those on motor development, should be also discussed briefly. Are the current results in line of those studies?' Studies concerning motor development were initially excluded from the review, as there exists an important difference between motor development and motor ability. However, because of terminology problems, some of the studies addressing motor development were identified using our search strategy. Because motor ability and motor development are two different concepts, it cannot be expected that the findings are in line with each other. Therefore, we believe that discussing motor development literature would be out of place.

Reviewer 3 (02445209)

- The language mistakes are corrected and highlighted in the main text.

2 The format has been updated and PMID and DOI's were added to the References.

We are grateful for the comments and thank the reviewers for their constructive suggestions. We hope this revised manuscript is suitable for publication in the *World Journal of Psychiatry*.

Sincerely yours,



Tine Van Damme
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
University of Antwerp
Collaborative Antwerp Psychiatric Research Institute
Campus Drie Eiken, Universiteitsplein 1
2610 Antwerp
Belgium
E-mail: Tine.vandamme@zna.be