Review of: "The Relationship Between Fibromyalgia and Neurodivergent Traits Is Partially Mediated by Hypermobility: A Self-Selected Population Based Survey"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting paper examining the relationship between fibromyalgia and autistic traits. The paper also examines if hypermobility mediates this relationship. I think the introduction, methods, and discussion are well written. I thought the results section was hard to follow and did not present data in a clear manner. I have some suggestions below.

Suggestions:

Table 1 should show more data on the study population than just gender. The methods say the participants were given a "comprehensive demographic questionnaire, created by the researchers which contained questions pertaining to age, sex, gender, ethnicity, religion, and employment status." so why not show all of those variables so we have an idea of the study population.

For age, I suggest showing the data by category (e.g. 18-24, 25-35, etc...) or maybe putting a histogram in the appendix. The inclusion criteria was 18-60, but I am concerned that the actual sample probably skews very young based on the recruitment strategy.

There is some disconnect in the flow of the paper in that the title, intro, and abstract set the paper up to examine associations between pain and neurodivergent traits, but almost half of the results section is focused on gender and subgroup differences. I would either find a way to more succinctly present these or revise the introduction to provide some background info on gender differences in pain/ASD and state it clearly as an aim of the study.

I think it would be easier for the reader to follow if all of the test comparisons performed were in a table, that included variables compared, test used, and p-value. Or you could split this into two tables - one for chi-square comparisons, and one for correlations.

Hope that is helpful. Thank you for the opportunity to read this paper.