

Peer Review

Review of: "The Pause That Protects? A New Framework for Autistic Regression and Strategies for Recovery"

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The manuscript entitled 'The Pause That Protects? A New Framework for Autistic Regression and Strategies for Recovery' focuses on a significant research topic: the role of developmental regression in ASD and its potential underlying mechanisms.

In general, the manuscript is quite intriguing and will most certainly attract the attention of other researchers. A major contribution is that the work considers the adaptive role of autistic regression as a multifactorial phenomenon in which mitochondrial metabolism plays a significant role.

There are a few shortcomings that need to be addressed prior to publication:

'Conventional wisdom offers one path forward: intensive behavior therapy' - It would be more appropriate to mark the existing consensus (or the lack of it!) about the application of behaviour therapy for the treatment of ASD symptoms rather than 'conventional wisdom'.

'Reframing regression not as a failure but as an adaptive response involving multiple mechanisms opens new avenues for understanding.' - highly ambitious message! Please tone it down.

The last two paragraphs in the section 'Not all regression is the same' (paragraphs 5 and 6) lack any references.

'can lower the threshold for convulsive activity.²¹' - please remove the unnecessary digits.

As a peer reviewer, I consider that overall, the manuscript is well-written and recommend that it should be accepted following minor revisions.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.