

Review of: "The Association Between Fibromyalgia, Hypermobility and Neurodivergence Extends to Families: Brief Report"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review: The Association Between Fibromyalgia, Hypermobility and Neurodivergence Extends to Families: Brief Report
The Brief report focuses on an interesting and clinically important question, but has several limitations concerning study design, inclusions criteria and definition of the disorders. Thus it should be interpreted with caution and not be generalized.

It is not clearly defined, what „neurodivergence“ means. How is it defined in the study? Did all participants mean the same syndromes when they hear the word „neurodivergent condition“?

Did the authors include patients with Hypermobility spectrum disorders or with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndromes?

What were the exact inclusion criteria? Moreover, there are three names mixed in the report (hEDS, hypermobility and HSD), which do not mean the same condition. This will also influence the results. It should be clearly defined and the correct definition should be used uniformly in the entire article.

The authors state, that „This self-reported small case-control study confirms the association of fibromyalgia, hypermobility and neurodivergence, and suggests that close relatives also exhibit this association.“ This conclusion should be interpreted much more cautiously, as it is a very small study and self-assessment of affected individuals, so this should not be generalized.

Why was formal ethical approval for this study not considered necessary?

The statement „Psychological distress in early life was suggested as a predisposing factor for chronic pain, especially if adverse childhood experiences (ACE) included lack of parental support or validation which were also associated with personality traits seen in neurodivergence [11] is based on a single paper and could lead to significant stigmatization of parents. I wouldn't leave it that way.