

Review of: "[Commentary] Recognising and Managing Medical Issues in Neurodiverse Females"

Ann Genovese¹

¹ University of Kansas School of Medicine

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

There are multiple typos in the manuscript which should be corrected.

Based on the title, I had assumed that this article would cover only medical, or primary physical health concerns of neurodiverse females. It also provides a good deal of information regarding emotional and mental health concerns. The authors may want to consider changing the title to reflect this. Also, there are 3 paragraphs outlining various physical health issues and only one paragraph for mental health issues. The authors should consider expanding the section for mental health given the amount of literature which supports the over-representation of behavioral and psychiatric conditions in neurodiverse individuals.

The authors cite a total of 3 references within the abstract. Generally, an abstract should not contain references, instead citations which support the information summarized within the abstract are typically included within the body of the article.

In section 1 the author uses the term "gender dysmorphia". I assume the intended term is "gender dysphoria", meaning sense of unhappiness regarding the discrepancy between the individual's sex assigned at birth and personal sense of gender identity. The term "body dysmorphia" on the other hand refers to *a body-image disorder characterized by persistent and intrusive preoccupations with an imagined or slight defect in one's appearance*.

In section 4 referring to "mental health issues" the authors refer to individuals with symptoms of "anxiety" or "depression". It is not clear whether the authors intend to focus only on symptoms or if their intent was to focus on mental health disorders. In either case, it would be useful to consider explaining the difference between symptoms and disorders, the latter of which are associated with significant distress, functional impairment and are not better explained by another mental health or medical condition. For example, the authors state "anxiety is an almost invariable accompaniment of neurodiversity among females", which I'm sure is true, but this assertion would also be true for all of mankind, as anxiety is a universal human emotion. It would be more meaningful if the authors focused on the prevalence of anxiety disorders instead of only symptoms, in which case there is a known significant discrepancy between neurodiverse individuals compared to the general population.

Also in section 4, the authors state that depression is as common in male as it is in female neurodiverse individuals. I wonder if this is only in adolescent ages, which is the population of focus for the article cited to support this statement? Also, the risk for self-harm is mentioned multiple times by the authors, but the elevated risk for suicide is mentioned only once and without elaboration, and the reference provided is for women with ADHD. In my opinion, this topic is deserving

of a bit more focus. Here for example is a reference reviewing suicidality in autism <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2018.03.003>.

In section 6 “future priorities” there is mention about the suspicion of some individuals regarding gene studies in autism. The reference provided by the authors for this statement is from Twitter. I would suggest that a reference with a potentially more balanced view might be this Nov 2021 article from the Translational Genomics Research Institute <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.14973.28642>.