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## The Role of Tests and Tools in Accurate Diagnosis and Severity in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders


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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The study claims significant findings regarding the effectiveness of diagnostic tools. Please provide a more detailed comparison of specific tools to strengthen the argument. This could include a breakdown of tools by diagnostic accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity.

The statistical methods section could be expanded to include more robust statistical techniques. Consider using logistic regression to account for potential confounders such as age and gender, which could influence the diagnostic outcomes.

The literature review could be more comprehensive. Include recent studies that have assessed the efficacy of early diagnostic tools for autism to contextualize your findings within the current research landscape.

The sample is limited to a specific region and demographic. Discuss the potential limitations this has on the generalizability of the findings and consider strategies for a more diverse sample in future research.

Provide operational definitions for key terms such as "accuracy of diagnosis" and "severity". This will help in standardizing the research criteria and enhance the clarity of the findings.

The study lacks a control group. Discuss the potential biases this might introduce and how they could be mitigated in future studies.

Clarify and justify the use of WhatsApp groups for data collection. Discuss potential biases introduced by this method and how they were addressed.

Discuss the validation process for the diagnostic tools used, especially new or less common tools, to reinforce the reliability of the study's outcomes.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction could better outline the research question and its relevance. Make a clearer connection between the rising prevalence of autism and the need for improved diagnostic tools.

Provide more detail on the selection criteria for the diagnostic tools and why specific tools were chosen over others.

Expand on the ethical considerations, particularly concerning the participants' anonymity and informed consent.

Specify the software used for statistical analysis to enhance the reproducibility of the study.

Offer a deeper interpretation of the results. Discuss why some tools might have performed better than others and the practical implications of these findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.