

Distress Tolerance and Rejection Sensitivity as Predictors of Borderline Traits

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While comprehensive, this paragraph would benefit from citing a more recent meta-analysis to substantiate claims about BPD's symptomatology and functional impairment.

"These traits are not only predictive of the full disorder..." – Clarify whether the cited studies (e.g., Baranskaya, 2024; Brahim et al., 2021) address subclinical populations, as the current wording assumes generalizability without specifying the samples used.

"Hyperactivity in the amygdala and reduced prefrontal modulation..." – Include the methodology (e.g., fMRI) used in referenced studies to support neural claims and help readers evaluate the robustness of these neurobiological conclusions.

"Recent studies have shown that maladaptive schemas..." – Define what is meant by "schemas" (e.g., early maladaptive schemas from schema therapy) and provide a brief example for clarity and precision.

The strong negative correlation between distress tolerance and rejection sensitivity ($r = -.39$) warrants further discussion, perhaps in the Discussion section, regarding the potential multicollinearity or overlap in construct.

The implication of the intercept is not interpreted in the Discussion. Consider briefly explaining what the intercept represents in the context of borderline trait prediction.

"These two dimensions—internal regulatory ability and external interpersonal expectation..." – This sentence is insightful. However, it would be stronger if it included references to dual-process models or integrated BPD theories that align with this two-factor view.

"Intervening at the level of psychological precursors such as distress tolerance..." – Strengthen this implication by suggesting specific screening tools or validated interventions (e.g., DBT modules, RSQ-brief version) that can be applied in primary care or schools.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

"This maladaptive sensitivity to rejection can be traced to early developmental experiences..." – It would be helpful to elaborate on the types of invalidating environments (e.g., neglect, inconsistent parenting) to clarify the developmental pathways of rejection sensitivity.

"These vulnerabilities may operate both independently and interactively..." – Consider clarifying whether the study tests for interaction effects or only additive effects. If no interaction term was included in the regression model, the sentence may be misleading.

"Cross-cultural perspectives further highlight the importance..." – Strengthen this paragraph by citing a specific gap in existing Japanese or East Asian research on BPD. Currently, the paragraph is broad and general.

"Interestingly, while both predictors were statistically significant..." – A deeper exploration of why rejection sensitivity showed a stronger beta coefficient would enhance the cultural contextualization. Could social norms in Japan regarding face-saving or shame mediate this effect?

"Our study adds to this literature by demonstrating..." – This is a key sentence for novelty. Consider rephrasing to explicitly claim what is unique (e.g., "This is one of the few studies to concurrently test both predictors in a non-clinical Japanese sample...").

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.