

# Structural Modeling of Risk-Taking Behaviors Based on Attention Systems with the Mediating Role of Emotion Regulation in Substance Users

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The study's generalizability could be enhanced by including a more diverse sample beyond convenience sampling from addiction treatment centers in Isfahan. Consider stratified sampling to include different demographic groups and geographical locations to enhance external validity.

While the Cognitive Emotion Regulation Questionnaire (CERQ) and risky behavior questionnaire were used, the manuscript lacks detailed validation information for these instruments in the context of substance users. Provide validation statistics or recent studies that support their reliability and validity in your target population.

The current structural equation modeling (SEM) approach could be improved by including a discussion on the handling of potential non-normality in data distribution, given that SEM is sensitive to such issues. Consider robust SEM techniques or provide justification for the methods used.

Expand on the operational definitions of the main constructs (attention, emotion regulation, and risk-taking behaviors). Specific details on how each variable was measured and scored will enhance the clarity and replicability of the study.

The study does not account for potential confounding variables that might influence the outcomes, such as duration of substance use, types of substances used, or socio-economic status. Discuss these limitations and consider adjusting for these variables in the analysis.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The linkage between the attention system and risk-taking behaviors through emotion regulation is intriguing but underexplored. Provide a more detailed theoretical framework that discusses why and how these constructs are expected to interact in substance users.

The review could be strengthened by incorporating a more extensive comparison with existing models of risk behavior in substance use, especially those focusing on neurocognitive perspectives.

The hypotheses presented are somewhat broad. Refine these to be more specific, possibly by hypothesizing directional relationships or the expected size of effects, which would aid in clearer verification or falsification of the proposed model.

The discussion section would benefit from a more detailed comparison of your findings with previous research, especially studies that have failed to find similar results or that propose alternative models of emotion regulation and risk-taking.

Expand on the practical implications of your findings. Discuss specific intervention strategies that could be developed based on the mediating role of emotion regulation, providing a bridge between research findings and clinical practice.

Suggest more specific future research directions that arise from your findings. For instance, longitudinal studies to test the causality of the relationships or experimental studies to manipulate attention systems to observe changes in risk-taking behaviors.

While some limitations are noted, the impact of these limitations on the study's conclusions could be discussed more comprehensively. For example, address the limitations related to the cross-sectional design of the study and how it affects the interpretation of causality between variables.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.