Author's response to reviews

Title: Tourette Syndrome and Learning Disabilities

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Team:

We have responded to the reviewers suggestions. The following letter describes the changes. We felt these were quite helpful and have improved the manuscript.

I will continue to act as the corresponding author. My contact information is:

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Thank you for consideration of our work.

Reviewer JSB
1. and 2. We did add an explanation that the definition of LD utilizes the DSM criteria. We are unable to more strictly define LD since no other criteria is more widely used around the world.

1 and 2 Many clinicians diagnose LD in children with other developmental disorders including developmental delay. The data from this study suggest the frequency of this strategy around the world.

3 The results section has been modified to make this point.

We did add text to reflect that the analysis was completed to compare the proportion of subjects in each group.
4. We did add a comment to this effect.

5. The Chi square is a nonparametric test which we used to examine changing variables with changing sample sizes. We then used a multivariate test (logistic regression) to account for the effects of multiple hypothesis testing.

We did discuss the analysis with a statistician and they felt that additional post hoc testing to further clarify the role of males in this dataset would add to the length of the manuscript and that the gender differences were only one of several hypothesis that could be explored.
6. Males more frequently have nearly all developmental disorders of childhood as was reflected in this data. We do feel that males are at increased risk for both TS and LD.
We did not feel we could comment on the wisdom of developing a screening tool for LD based on information from other studies many of which developed risk factors in subjects who did not have TS. Since these variables were not included in our study we did not feel we would be able to comment on this suggestion.

Reviewer MM

First paragraph. We have added text to clarify the row and column totals.

Second paragraph ADHD is a confounder of the results.

We have added a discussion of the criteria used to define the LD group. (which was the DSM criteria). We did not have standardized test results in our dataset. As we noted above we feel that the DSM criteria are the only set of criteria widely used around the world. We are not aware of any widely agreed upon single set of criteria for LD other than the DSM. While we agree that the DSM diagnostic criteria are problematic it seems unlikely that in the near future a set of criteria for LD are likely to be agreed upon in all of the countries in our registry.