Author's response to reviews

Title: Quality of life of parents raising children with pervasive developmental disorders

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Version: 4 Date: 29 April 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
April 24, 2012

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Prof. Akemi Tomoda, 
Journal Editorial Office, BioMed Central

RE: Quality of life of parents raising children with pervasive developmental disorders

Ms. Ref. No.: 6570203866264730

Dear Dr, Akemi Tomoda

We are most grateful to you and the reviewers for your helpful comments on our manuscript. We have addressed all the comments from the reviewers, as indicated on the attached pages, and hope that the explanations and revision of our work will prove satisfactory.

We hope that our revised manuscript is considered suitable for publication in the Journal of BMC Psychiatry, and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of my co-authors,
Atsurou Yamada
Quality of life of parents raising children with pervasive developmental disorders

We are most grateful to the reviewers for their helpful comments on our manuscript. We have addressed all the comments as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Response from the authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Abstract</td>
<td>We have revised the sentence to make sense as follows: “Multiple regressions have shown that Neuroticism was significantly related to the low MCS scores of mothers and fathers.” (p.4 lines 7-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>This sentence does not make sense. Please rewrite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> Background</td>
<td>We have corrected and cited the reference, as pointed out. (p.5 lines 5-6).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td>This citation may be outdated and newer surveys provide almost a 2-fold higher prevalence rate for ASD. The authors should probably cite - CDC. Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders? Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 14 Sites, United States, 2008. March 30, 2012 / 61(SS03);1-19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Tables</td>
<td>We have stated the measures in full, as suggested. (table2, title of table3 and table4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tables</td>
<td>The tables would be more readable if the measures were stated in full rather than abbreviated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> Results</td>
<td>We have changed the sentence as follows: “The scores were lower among</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Results | Mothers also showed significant
deterioration in 6 domains (p<.01) especially in psychological areas compared with fathers as well as the general female population.”

The term deterioration should not be used as we do not know how these scores changed over time. They should simply state that the scores were lower in mothers than fathers.

5 Discussion
What is lacking is any information on the relative impact of a child with ASD on QOL versus having a child with any other chronic disorder. Is there any information available to place this into a meaningful perspective?

We have added some information about QOL of parents comparing their children with autism spectrum disorders versus mental retardation or attention deficit / hyperactivity disorders or cerebral palsy as follows: “The mothers of children with PDDs seem to have lower QOL than those of children with other chronic diseases because of their children’s symptoms and behavior problems. PDDs seem to place greater burden on the parents in comparison with other developmental disorders. For example, the mothers of children with PDDs tend to have a lower QOL in the psychological domain than the mothers of children with mental retardation. Parents of children with autism report a greater level of child caring burden, less frequent attendance of religious service, more school days
missed, more repeated grades, less participation in activities/events, and less involvement in community services compared to parents of children with ADHD. “ (p.16 lines 8-16) and “It is also reported that fathers of children with PDDs also showed statistically significant lower scores in the social relationship domain compared to fathers of normal developing children and in the psychological domain compared to fathers of children with cerebral palsy, but that mothers showed low scores in more domains than fathers “ (p.18 lines 12-16). We added citations in Background to show impact of children with PDDs on psychological adaptation of their parents (p.6 lines 3-6, citation 19 and 20).