

The use of ADOS-2 in early diagnosis for Autism Spectrum Disorder: Explorative Graph Analysis.

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Autism Spectrum Disorder represents a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by a variety of behavioral manifestations. In addition, there has been growing awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and the development or revision of screening and diagnostic tools for autism. The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule –2 (ADOS-2) represents the gold standard in autism diagnosis, but identification of the latent factors underlying its items remains an area of clinical and research interest. The present study aims to investigate, using psychometric network analysis techniques, particularly Explorative Graph Analysis (EGA), the underlying structure of the ADOS-2 items to identify latent factors and any patterns or clusters of items that are correlated with each other. This can provide hypotheses about how different symptoms of autism manifest and interact with each other. In addition, by analyzing the patterns of connection between items, it is possible to assess the internal consistency of the ADOS-2 and identify any items that may not be in line with the overall structure of the test. In addition, the predictive agreement between the Toddler Module and Module 1 of the ADOS-2, and the predictive effect of the two constructs shared by the two modules, namely Social Affect and Restricted and Repetitive Behaviors in the diagnosis of autism was evaluated. This work provides a new perspective on the use of the EGA to better understand the structure of the ADOS-2 and its cross-sectional validity in the diagnosis of autism.

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ASSESSMENT AND TESTING PROCEDURES FROM RESEARCH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE

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