



# Correction to: Non-credible symptom report in the clinical evaluation of adult ADHD: development and initial validation of a new validity index embedded in the Conners' adult ADHD rating scales

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Due to an administrative error, 73 individuals were wrongly assigned to the *Simulation Group*. Correction of this error consequently reduced its sample size from 242 to 169 individuals.

This did not affect the development of the ADHD Credibility Index (ACI). However, it resulted in an underestimation of the index' classification accuracy in its initial validation.

The corrected demographic data of the *Simulation Group* (see amended Table 1) differed from those of the other experimental groups as described in the original publication. Participants of this group were still significantly younger than participants in the *ADHD Groups* (credible:

$z=7.357$ , adjusted  $p<0.01$ ; non-credible:  $z=3.819$ , adjusted  $p<0.01$ ) and *Control Groups* (credible:  $z=20.681$ , adjusted  $p<0.01$ ; overreporting:  $z=3.557$ , adjusted  $p<0.01$ ). The gender distribution in this group also differed from the *Credible* ( $\chi^2(1)=42.518$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) and *Overreporting Control Groups* ( $\chi^2(1)=20.289$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) as well as the *ADHD Groups* (credible:  $\chi^2(1)=16.176$ ,  $p<0.01$ ; non-credible:  $\chi^2(1)=13.327$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). In terms of education, instructed simulators differed from credible participants in the *Control Group* ( $z=-7.611$ , adjusted  $p<0.01$ ) and the *ADHD Group* ( $z=-3.660$ , adjusted  $p<0.01$ ), but not from overreporting controls ( $z=1.864$ , adjusted  $p=0.623$ ) or non-credible patients with ADHD ( $z=0.014$ , adjusted  $p=1.00$ ).

Correcting the *Simulation Group* further required the revision of Tables 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11. With the exception of the following findings, the pattern of results remained unchanged. The validity indicators under study showed overall **higher** sensitivity rates and **larger** effect sizes than previously reported. Rather than the small effect described in the original publication, the ACI yielded a large effect for the comparison of instructed simulators and credible adults with ADHD ( $d=1.29$ , 95% CI [0.49, 2.09]). As was previously the case, the largest effect could be observed on the Supposed Symptoms subscale, followed by Exaggerated Symptoms, Selectivity, and lastly Symptom Combinations (see amended Appendix 3). Additionally, changes in classification accuracy were noted for two DSM scales (see amended Table 6). While previously significant, ROC analysis showed a statistically non-significant result for the DSM Inattention (E) scale. In contrast, the DSM Total (G), yielded a statistically significant result upon correction. These changes did not affect the conclusions drawn from the results.

The original article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00702-021-02318-y>.

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**Table 1.** Descriptive data by group

|                      | Neurotypical control group ( <i>n</i> = 1019) |                                | ADHD group ( <i>n</i> = 122) |                               | Simulation group ( <i>n</i> = 169) |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                      | Credible ( <i>n</i> = 1001)                   | Overreporting ( <i>n</i> = 18) | Credible ( <i>n</i> = 100)   | Non-credible ( <i>n</i> = 22) |                                    |
| Age (years)          |   |                                |                              |                               |                                    |
| Median (MAD)         | 49 (11)                                       | 32 (4)                         | 34 (9)                       | 31.50 (10.5)                  | 20 (1)                             |
| Range                | 40  | 33                             | 62                           | 42                            | 41                                 |
| Sex (m/f)            |   |                                |                              |                               |                                    |
|                      | 494/504                                       | 13/5                           | 46/54                        | 13/9                          | 38/131                             |
| %                    | 49.4/50.3*                                    | 72.2/27.8                      | 46.0/54.0                    | 59.1/40.9                     | 22.5/77.5                          |
| Education            |   |                                |                              |                               |                                    |
| Years                |   |                                |                              |                               |                                    |
| Median (MAD)         | 13 (3)  | 13 (3)                         | 13 (3)                       | 14 (2)                        | 13 (1)                             |
| Range                | 10  | 10                             | 16                           | 15                            | 14                                 |
| ADHD Symptomatology  |   |                                |                              |                               |                                    |
| Past <sup>a</sup>    |   |                                |                              |                               |                                    |
| Median (MAD)         |   |                                | 40.0 (10)                    | 40.5 (14.5)                   | 13.0 (6)                           |
| Range                |   |                                | 70.0                         | 53.5                          | 48.0                               |
| Present <sup>b</sup> |   |                                |                              |                               |                                    |
| Median (MAD)         |   |                                | 31.0 (6)                     | 28.5 (5.5)                    | 10.0 (4)                           |
| Range                |   |                                | 53.0                         | 40.0                          | 45.0                               |

MAD median absolute deviation

\*Three participants did not disclose their gender

<sup>a</sup>Wender Utah Rating Scale

<sup>b</sup>ADHD Self-Report Scale

**Table 2.** Summary statistics for ADHD Credibility Index (ACI) scores by group

|              | Neurotypical control group |               | ADHD group |              | Simulation group |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
|              | Credible                   | Overreporting | Credible   | Non-credible |                  |
| Median (MAD) | 2 (2)                      | 22 (5)        | 11 (4)     | 10.5 (5.5)   | 20 (4)           |
| ACI-A        | 0 (0)                      | 5 (1)         | 2 (1)      | 2.5 (1.5)    | 5 (1)            |
| ACI-B        | 0 (0)                      | 5.5 (1.5)     | 3 (1)      | 2 (1)        | 5 (1)            |
| ACI-C        | 0 (0)                      | 6 (1)         | 3 (1)      | 2 (1)        | 5 (1)            |
| ACI-D        | 0 (0)                      | 6 (1.5)       | 2 (1)      | 2 (2)        | 5 (1)            |
| Range        |                            |               |            |              |                  |
| Min–max      | 0–25                       | 7–30          | 0–32       | 2–19         | 1–36             |
| Mode         |                            |               |            |              |                  |
| ACI-A        | 0                          | 5             | 2          | 1            | 5                |
| ACI-B        | 0                          | 5.5           | 3          | 1            | 6                |
| ACI-C        | 0                          | 6             | 2          | 2            | 5                |
| ACI-D        | 0                          | 6             | 3          | 2            | 5                |

MAD Median Absolute Deviation, ACI-A Supposed Symptoms Subscale, ACI-B Exaggerated Symptoms Subscale, ACI-C Symptom Combinations Subscale, ACI-D Selectivity Subscale

<sup>a</sup>Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown here.

**Table 5.** Sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value (PPV), and negative predictive value (NPV) of the ADHD Credibility Index (ACI) and CAARS Infrequency Index (CII) in the detection of simulated ADHD, non-credible adults with ADHD, and overreport on CAARS DSM Scales

|             | Base rate | Group      |                   |            |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|             |           | Simulation | Non-credible ADHD | Overreport |
| <b>ACI</b>  |           |            |                   |            |
| Sensitivity |           | 44.10%     | 0.0%              | 38.74%     |
| Specificity |           | 94.74%     | 94.74%            | 98.73%     |
| PPV         | 10        | 48.21%     | 0.0%              | 77.23%     |
|             | 20        | 67.69%     | 0.0%              | 88.41%     |
|             | 30        | 78.22%     | 0.0%              | 92.90%     |
|             | 50        | 89.34%     | 0.0%              | 96.83%     |
| NPV         | 10        | 93.85%     | 89.50%            | 93.55%     |
|             | 20        | 87.14%     | 79.12%            | 86.57%     |
|             | 30        | 79.82%     | 68.85%            | 78.99%     |
|             | 50        | 62.89%     | 48.65%            | 61.71%     |
| <b>CII</b>  |           |            |                   |            |
| Sensitivity |           | 65.09%     | 27.27%            | 65.17%     |
| Specificity |           | 69.00%     | 69.00%            | 96.84%     |
| PPV         | 10        | 18.92%     | 8.90%             | 69.65%     |
|             | 20        | 34.42%     | 18.03%            | 83.77%     |
|             | 30        | 47.36%     | 27.38%            | 89.85%     |
|             | 50        | 67.74%     | 46.80%            | 95.38%     |
| NPV         | 10        | 94.68%     | 89.52%            | 96.16%     |
|             | 20        | 88.77%     | 79.14%            | 91.75%     |
|             | 30        | 82.18%     | 68.88%            | 86.65%     |
|             | 50        | 66.40%     | 48.69%            | 73.55%     |

Participants were classified as Overreporters if their *T*-Scores on any CAARS DSM Scale were  $\geq 80$

**Table 6.** Results of ROC analyses distinguishing credible adults with ADHD ( $n = 95$ ) from simulators ( $n = 161$ )

|                                   | AUC   | SE    | <i>p</i> | 95% CI |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|--------|-------|
|                                   |       |       |          | Lower  | Upper |
| ACI                               | 0.825 | 0.027 | < 0.01*  | 0.773  | 0.878 |
| DSM inattention (E)               | 0.565 | 0.037 | 0.084    | 0.493  | 0.636 |
| DSM hyperactivity/impulsivity (F) | 0.820 | 0.028 | < 0.01*  | 0.764  | 0.875 |
| DSM total (G)                     | 0.743 | 0.032 | < 0.01*  | 0.681  | 0.805 |
| CII                               | 0.716 | 0.033 | < 0.01*  | 0.652  | 0.780 |

*AUC* area under the curve, *ACI* ADHD Credibility Index, *CII* Conners' Infrequency Index

\*Statistically significant at  $\alpha = 0.05$

**Table 8.** Results of ROC analyses distinguishing participants with unremarkable *T*-Scores on the DSM Scales ( $n = 1103$ ) from Overreporters ( $n = 191$ )

|     | Overreport on         | AUC   | SE    | <i>p</i> | 95% CI |       |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|-------|----------|--------|-------|
|     |                       |       |       |          | Lower  | Upper |
| ACI | Any DSM Scale         | 0.944 | 0.006 | < 0.01*  | 0.932  | 0.957 |
|     | DSM inattention (E)   | 0.931 | 0.007 | < 0.01*  | 0.917  | 0.946 |
|     | DSM hyperactivity (F) | 0.959 | 0.006 | < 0.01*  | 0.947  | 0.972 |
|     | DSM total (G)         | 0.954 | 0.006 | < 0.01*  | 0.943  | 0.966 |
| CII | Any DSM Scale         | 0.966 | 0.005 | < 0.01*  | 0.957  | 0.976 |
|     | DSM inattention (E)   | 0.958 | 0.006 | < 0.01*  | 0.947  | 0.969 |
|     | DSM hyperactivity (F) | 0.978 | 0.004 | < 0.01*  | 0.970  | 0.985 |
|     | DSM total (G)         | 0.970 | 0.004 | < 0.01*  | 0.962  | 0.979 |

AUC Area under the Curve, ACI ADHD Credibility Index, CII Conners' Infrequency Index

\*Statistically significant at  $\alpha = 0.05$

**Table 9.** Agreement between ADHD Credibility Index and overreport on DSM scales

| Scale                             | Group                   | %     | ADHD Credibility Index |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------------|
|                                   |                         |       | Not suspect (%)        | Suspect (%) |
| DSM inattention (E)               | Control group           | 1.68  | 47.06                  | 52.94       |
|                                   | ADHD group              | 47.37 | 88.89                  | 11.11       |
|                                   | Simulation group        | 60.87 | 45.92                  | 54.08       |
|                                   | Non-credible ADHD group | 50.00 | 100.00                 | 0.00        |
|                                   | Total                   | 13.19 | 60.59                  | 39.41       |
| DSM hyperactivity/impulsivity (F) | Control group           | 0.39  | 25.00                  | 75.00       |
|                                   | ADHD group              | 10.53 | 70.00                  | 30.00       |
|                                   | Simulation group        | 45.96 | 37.84                  | 62.16       |
|                                   | Non-credible ADHD group | 5.00  | 100.00                 | 0.00        |
|                                   | Total                   | 6.90  | 41.57                  | 58.43       |
| DSM total (G)                     | Control group           | 1.18  | 25.00                  | 75.00       |
|                                   | ADHD group              | 33.68 | 84.38                  | 15.62       |
|                                   | Simulation group        | 67.70 | 45.87                  | 54.13       |
|                                   | Non-credible ADHD group | 35.00 | 100.00                 | 0.00        |
|                                   | Total                   | 12.41 | 54.38                  | 45.62       |
| ADHD Index (H)                    | Control group           | 0.30  | 33.33                  | 66.67       |
|                                   | ADHD group              | 14.74 | 64.29                  | 35.71       |
|                                   | Simulation group        | 11.80 | 0.00                   | 100.00      |
|                                   | Non-credible ADHD group | 5.00  | 100.00                 | 0.00        |
|                                   | Total                   | 2.87  | 29.73                  | 70.27       |

Column denoted '%' shows the percentage of participants within the respective group, whose *T*-Scores fell into the suspect range (i.e.  $T \geq 80$ )

**Table 10.** Agreement between ADHD Credibility Index and existing validity indicators

| Index               | Group                   | Classification   | %     | ACI           |           |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|---------------|-----------|
|                     |                         |                  |       | % Not Suspect | % Suspect |
| Inconsistency Index | Control group           | Not inconsistent | 94.89 | 98.86         | 1.14      |
|                     |                         | Inconsistent     | 5.11  | 98.08         | 1.92      |
|                     | ADHD group              | Not inconsistent | 76.60 | 93.06         | 6.94      |
|                     |                         | Inconsistent     | 23.40 | 100.00        | 0.00      |
|                     | Simulation group        | Not inconsistent | 80.75 | 54.62         | 45.38     |
|                     |                         | Inconsistent     | 19.25 | 61.29         | 38.71     |
|                     | Non-credible ADHD group | Not inconsistent | 90.00 | 100.00        | 0.00      |
|                     |                         | Inconsistent     | 10.00 | 100.00        | 0.00      |
|                     | Total                   | Not inconsistent | 91.72 | 93.68         | 6.32      |
|                     |                         | Inconsistent     | 8.28  | 87.85         | 12.15     |
| CII                 | Control group           | Not suspect      | 98.23 | 99.80         | 0.20      |
|                     |                         | Suspect          | 1.77  | 44.44         | 55.56     |
|                     | ADHD group              | Not suspect      | 69.47 | 100.00        | 0.00      |
|                     |                         | Suspect          | 30.53 | 82.76         | 17.24     |
|                     | Simulation group        | Not suspect      | 36.02 | 87.93         | 12.07     |
|                     |                         | Suspect          | 63.98 | 37.86         | 62.14     |
|                     | Non-credible ADHD group | Not suspect      | 70.00 | 100.00        | 0.00      |
|                     |                         | Suspect          | 30.00 | 100.00        | 0.00      |
|                     | Total                   | Not suspect      | 87.94 | 99.21         | 0.79      |
|                     |                         | Suspect          | 12.06 | 49.36         | 50.64     |

**Table 11.** Agreement between ADHD Credibility Index (ACI) and CAARS Infrequency Index (CII)

| ACI suspect? | CII suspect? |     |      |
|--------------|--------------|-----|------|
|              | No           | Yes |      |
| No           | 1129         | 77  | 1206 |
| Yes          | 9            | 79  | 88   |
|              | 1138         | 156 |      |

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**Appendix 3. Effect Sizes (d) with 95%-Confidence Intervals**

|       | Credible ADHD group (n = 100) vs. simulation group (n = 169) |       |       | Credible ADHD group (n = 100) vs. non-credible ADHD group (n = 22) |        |       |
|-------|--|-------|-------|--|--------|-------|
|       | d  | Lower | Upper | d  | Lower  | Upper |
| ACI   | 1.292  | 0.486 | 2.098 | 0.146  | -0.958 | 1.249 |
| ACI-A | 1.478  | 1.256 | 1.700 | 0.006  | -0.297 | 0.309 |
| ACI-B | 1.203  | 0.970 | 1.436 | 0.306  | -0.056 | 0.667 |
| ACI-C | 0.736  | 0.480 | 0.993 | 0.164  | -0.207 | 0.535 |
| ACI-D | 0.994  | 0.761 | 1.227 | 0.073  | -0.273 | 0.419 |

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ACI ADHD Credibility Index, ACI-A Supposed Symptoms Subscale, ACI-B Exaggerated Symptoms Subscale, ACI-C Symptom Combinations Subscale, ACI-D Selectivity Subscale