Running Head: PARENT-REPORTED REGRESSION IN ASD

Manuscript Title: Characteristics, Early Development and Outcome of Parent-Reported Regression in Autism Spectrum Disorder

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Abstract
This study explored regression patterns in 100 children with ASD (3-11 years) using several approaches to enhance the validity of retrospective parent report. Both early development and outcome were examined in regression groups defined by 36 months age cut-off and two underlying empirical patterns based on type and onset age. Results over regression groups were generally consistent. During early development, children with regression showed a similar amount of social atypicalities and stereotyped behaviour as compared to children without regression. However, parents indicated less communication skills which could be a valuable predictor of regression. Development after regression was characterised by early language delay and more restricted and repetitive behaviour. The findings provide insight into the diagnosis and prognosis of regression in ASD.

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder; onset patterns; regression; early development; outcome

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate
Informed consent was obtained from all individuals participants included in the study.
The study was approved by the ethics committee of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University Ghent (Belgium) on the 3rd of August 2015. Participation was voluntary and the confidentiality of the child and caregiver(s) was protected.

Availability of data and material
The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Authors’ contributions

Recruitment, data collection, analyses and interpretation was done by SB. HR was supervising the recruitment and data collection and provided substantial feedback on the analyses and interpretation of the data. He was a major contributor in writing the manuscript. RVC also supervised the research and provided additional feedback on the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.