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# Hypermobility and Neurodiversity

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## Outline

- Variant connective tissue: hypermobility (JH)
- Neurodevelopmental disorders/Neurodiversity (ND)
- Common links
- Research findings
- Conclusions and future directions

#### Hypermobility: Variant Connective Tissue



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#### ARTICLE

#### A Framework for the Classification of Joint Hypermobility and Related Conditions

MARCO CASTORI,\* BRAD TINKLE, HOWARD LEVY, RODNEY GRAHAME, FRANSISKA MALFAIT, AND ALAN HAKIM

### **Clinical Spectrum of Hypermobility**

#### Table 3

#### Clinical Spectrum of EDS-HT/JHS (Hamonet et al., 2014; Colombi et al., 2015).

Osteoarticular	i.e. mild scoliosis, flat foot, lumbar hyperlordosis, joint hypermobility
Muscular	i.e. hypotonia, fibromyalgia, recurrent myalgias and cramps, dystonia
Mucocutaneous	i.e. mildly hyperextensible skin, velvety/silky/soft skin texture, striae rubrae and/or distensae in young age, small or post-surgical atrophic scars, Keratosis pilaris, hernias, light blue sclerae, gingival inflammation/recessions, hypoplastic
	lingual frenulum, easy bruising, resistance to local anaesthetic drugs
Gastrointestinal	i.e. dysphagia, dysphonia, reflux gastroesophageal, gastritis, unexplained abdominal pain, food intolerances
Cardiovascular	i.e. varicose veins, low progressive aortic root dilatation, pseudo-Raynaud's phenomenon, mitral valve prolapse
Urogynaecological	i.e. dyspareunia, dysmenorrhea, urinary stress incontinence, meno/metrorrhagia.
Ocular	i.e. myopia, strabismus, palpebral ptosis.
Dental	i.e. dental neuralgia, gingivitis, temporo mandibular joint pain, dental pains to cold/warm.
Neuropsychiatric	i.e. dysautonomia, clumsiness, proprioceptive dysfunction, paresthesia, headache, fatigue, sleep disturbances, cognitive impairment, anxiety, hyperaesthesia, hyperosmia, hyperacousis.



**Review** article

A connective tissue disorder may underlie ESSENCE problems in childhood

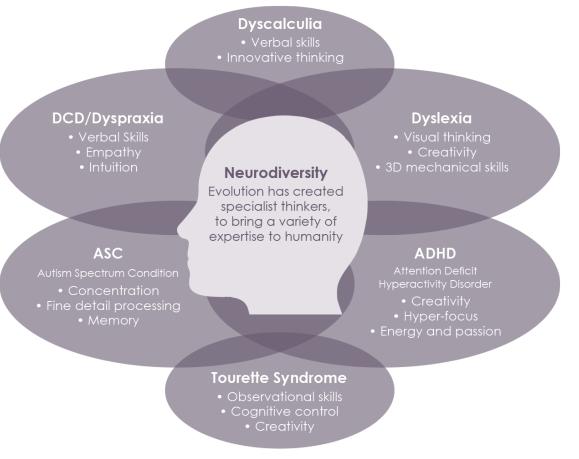


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#### Neurodevelopmental conditions



Based on the highly original work of of Mary Colley, DANDA

#### **RESEARCH ARTICLE**





#### Nationwide population-based cohort study of psychiatric disorders in individuals with Ehlers–Danlos syndrome or hypermobility syndrome and their siblings

Martin Cederlöf<sup>1\*</sup>, Henrik Larsson<sup>1</sup>, Paul Lichtenstein<sup>1</sup>, Catarina Almqvist<sup>1,2</sup>, Eva Serlachius<sup>3</sup> and Jonas F. Ludvigsson<sup>1,4,5,6</sup>

#### Abstract

Background: To assess the risk of psychiatric disorders in Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS) and hypermobility syndrome.

**Methods:** Nationwide population-based matched cohort study. EDS, hypermobility syndrome and psychiatric disorders were identified through Swedish national registries. Individuals with EDS (n = 1,771) were matched with comparison individuals (n = 17,710). Further, siblings to individuals with EDS who did not have an EDS diagnosis themselves were compared with matched comparison siblings. Using conditional logistic regression, risk of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, attempted suicide, suicide and schizophrenia were estimated. The same analyses were conducted in individuals with hypermobility syndrome (n = 10,019) and their siblings.

**Results:** EDS was associated with ASD: risk ratio (RR) 7.4, 95 % confidence interval (95 % Cl) 5.2–10.7; bipolar disorder: RR 2.7, Cl 1.5–4.7 ADHD: RR 5.6, Cl 4.2–7.4; depression: RR 3.4, 95 % Cl 2.9–4.1; and attempted suicide: RR 2.1, 95 % Cl 1. 7–2.7, but not with suicide or schizophrenia. EDS siblings were at increased risk of ADHD: RR 2.1, 95 % Cl 1.4–3.3; depression: RR 1.5, 95 % Cl 1.1–1.8; and suicide attempt: RR 1.8, 95 % Cl 1.4–2.3. Similar results were observed for individuals with hypermobility syndrome and their siblings.

**Conclusions:** Individuals with EDS and hypermobility syndrome are at increased risks of being diagnosed with psychiatric disorders. These risk increases may have a genetic and/or early environmental background as suggested by evidence showing that siblings to patients have elevated risks of certain psychiatric disorders.

Keywords: Cohort study, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Hypermobility syndrome, Epidemiology, Psychiatric disorders

### Common links between JH and ND

- Anxiety
  - Of those with neurodevelopmental conditions approx. 40%
    experience other psychiatric disorder (Tonge & Einfield, 2000)
  - Up to 70% JH in anxiety/panic (Bulbena et al., 1988, Martin-Santos et al., 1998)

- Dyspraxia
  - Very common in neurodevelopmental history
  - 50% of those with ADHD have DCD (Cairney et al. 2010)
  - JH is common in DCD (Celetti et al., 2015, Kirby and Davies, 2007)

- Dysautonomia
  - 80% of hEDS/HSD patients have orthostatic intolerance (Gazit et al., 2003)
  - JH in up to 70% of POTS patients (Mathias et al., 2012)
  - Poor orthostatic pulse pressure regulation in children increased risk for symptoms of ADHD (Casavant et al., 2012)
  - ? Shared abnormalities in NET gene (Fararone and Mick., 2010)
- Pain
- High rates of ADHD in patients with Fibromyalgia (Dersken et al., 2015)
- High rates of JHS (pain plus JH) in patients with ND (Eccles., in prep)

#### **Potential Model**

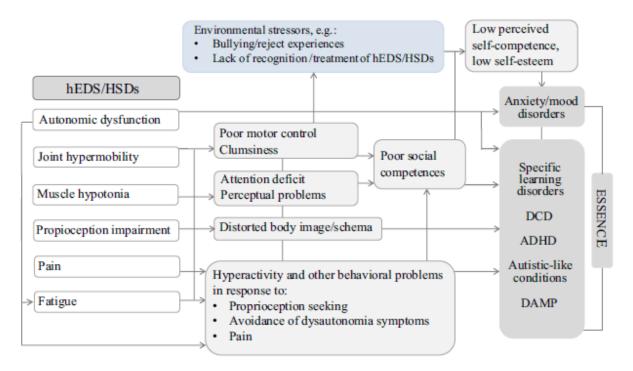


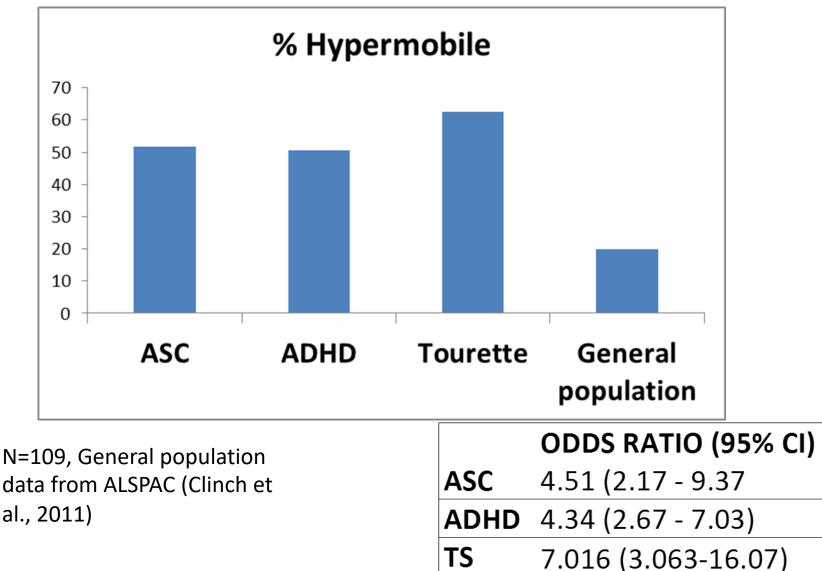
Fig. 2 Diagram illustrating possible relationships between some features of JHS/EDS-HT might contributing to neurodevelopmental disorders and psychopathology in the developmental age. JHS/EDS-HT: joint hypermobility syndrome/Ehlers–Danlos syndrome hypermobility type. ADHD attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, DCD developmental coordination disorder, DAMP deficits in attention, motor control, and perceptual abilities, ESSENCE early symptomatic syndromes eliciting neurodevelopmental clinical examinations

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, joint hypermobility-related disorders and pain: expanding body-mind connections to the developmental age

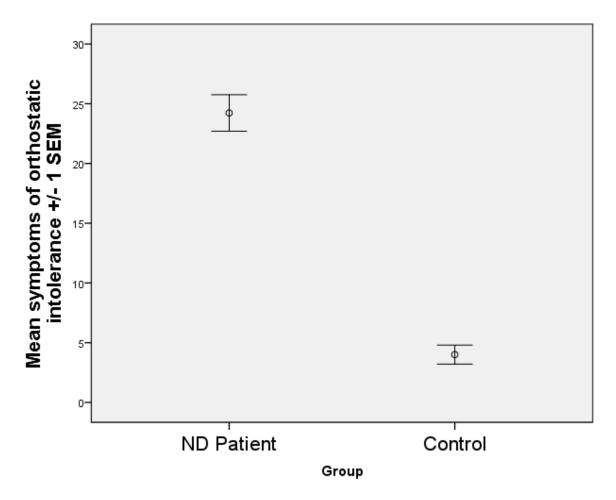
Carolina Baeza-Velasco<sup>1,2,5</sup> · Lorenzo Sinibaldi<sup>3</sup> · Marco Castori<sup>4</sup>

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#### Research Findings – Prevalence JH

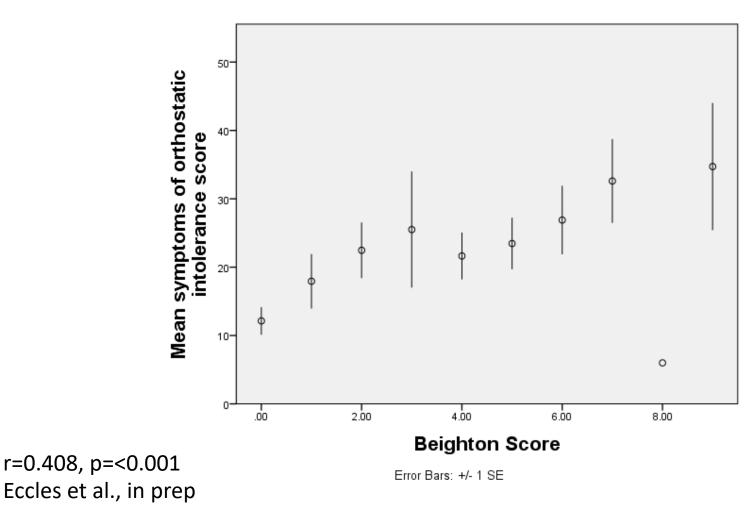


### Symptoms of Dysautonomia

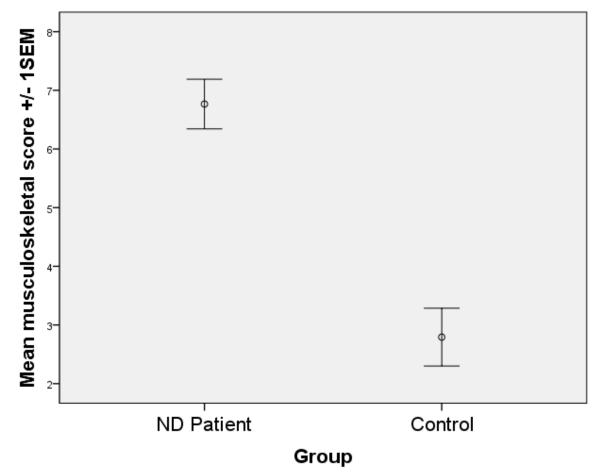


t=6.908, d.f 131, p=<0.001 Eccles et al., in prep

#### Correlation between hypermobility and symptoms of orthostatic intolerance

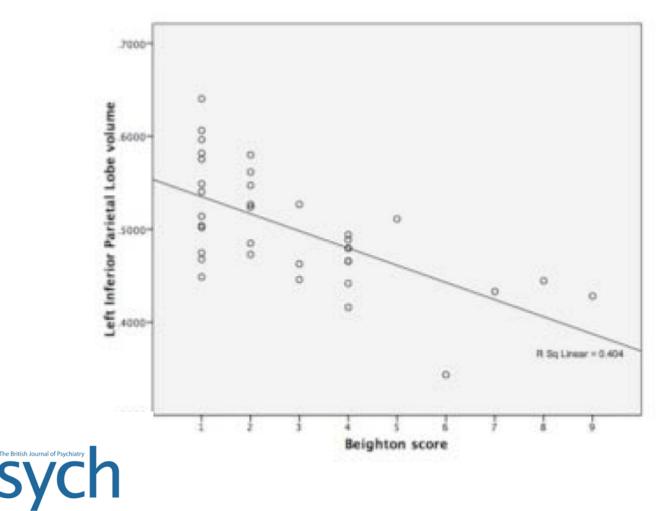


#### Musculoskeletal symptoms



t=5.272, df 104, p<0.001 Eccles et al., In prep

#### Link with dyspraxia IPL volume negatively correlates HM



Brain structure and joint hypermobility: relevance to the expression of psychiatric symptoms

Jessica A. Eccles, Felix D. C. Beacher, Marcus A. Gray, Catherine L. Jones, Ludovico Minati, Neil A Harrison and Hugo D. Critchley BJ/ 2012, 200588-509.

cess the most recent version at DOI: 10.1192/bjp.bp.111.092460

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### Eating Disorder

- 33 patients
- 58% Generalized Joint Laxity
- 70% Hypermobility syndrome

#### ED: Relationship with thinking style

- 40% "Extreme Male Brain" (upper 2.5 centile, Goldenfield et al, 2005)
- 28% High Autism Quotient
- Significant relationship between high systematising and joint hypermobility syndrome

Eccles et al., in prep

### Conclusions

- Importance of recognising JH in Autism/ADHD/Tourette Syndrome
- Importance of screening for neurodevelopmental disorder in JH
- Importance of screening for underlying autonomic dysfunction and pain
- Are ASC traits important in eating disorder in JH?

### Thanks

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- Rebecca Simmons
- Patients