

Associations Between Internet Addiction, Psychiatric Comorbidity, and Maternal Depression and Anxiety: Potential Underlying Mechanisms [Response to Letter]

Shoko Sakamoto^{1,2}, Dai Miyawaki^{1,3}, Ayako Goto¹, Kaoru Hirai^{1,4}, Hiroki Hama^{1,2}, Shin Kadono^{1,2}, Sayaka Nishiura^{1,2}, Koki Inoue¹

¹Department of Neuropsychiatry, Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan; ²Department of Neuropsychiatry, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan; ³Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Osaka City General Hospital, Osaka, Japan; ⁴Department of Pediatrics, Osaka Metropolitan University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan

Correspondence: Dai Miyawaki, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Osaka City General Hospital, Osaka, Japan, Email miyawakidai@omu.ac.jp

Dear editor

My co-authors and I appreciate Filho and Almeida's insightful comments regarding our recent study highlighting the association between internet addiction (IA) in children and maternal depression and anxiety.

We agree with the importance of exploring the possible factors involved in this association. Our article notes that although the underlying mechanism remains unclear, maternal depression may make their child vulnerable to developing IA through the negative mother-child relationship. They kindly extended our understanding of the relationship, providing the four possible aspects. Depression in mothers may link to the lack of parental involvement, reduced time of supervising children, strengthening the child's preference for online interaction as a coping skill, and the child's higher risk of developing depression as a risk factor for IA. We agree with their opinions, possibly leading to preventive and therapeutic interventions.

They also gave us implications for further studies by focusing on the subtypes of IA and using PHQ-9 and GAD-7. Again, we appreciate their contribution to deepening the insight into the association between IA and maternal depression.

Given the increasing focus on children's biological characteristics as a factor in IA, more research is needed to focus on the parent-child relationship, including how parental psychopathology affects the development of IA in children.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment is an international, peer-reviewed journal of clinical therapeutics and pharmacology focusing on concise rapid reporting of clinical or pre-clinical studies on a range of neuropsychiatric and neurological disorders. This journal is indexed on PubMed Central, the 'PsycINFO' database and CAS, and is the official journal of The International Neuropsychiatric Association (INA). The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/neuropsychiatric-disease-and-treatment-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/NDT.5415170>