**JAD\_2016\_692**

**Distress intolerance as a moderator of the relationship between daily stressors and affective symptoms: tests of incremental and prospective relationships**

**Comment:** the authors focus on the role of distress intolerance (DI) in the relationship between daily stressor events, and affective symptoms related to depression/worry/anxiety. A non-clinical sample completed baseline measures of DI, trait negative affect, and six diary entries over a period of 2 weeks reporting daily self-rating of how they experienced negative affect, worry, depressive and social anxiety symptoms. The primary finding was that the positive association between daily stressors occurrence and daily worry was significant at high DI but not low DI. A similar trend of results was observed for depressive symptoms but not social anxiety. The authors suggest that this may be due to the more internal and more vaguely define nature of distress and avoidance in worry and depression. This is a clinically relevant and methodologically rigorous study that deserves to be published. The introduction is well written and hypotheses are sound and explicitly stated. Methods, statistical analyses and results should be presented in a more structured and informative way. A table with demographics, education, IQ, ethnicity, professional status, and mean/SD values for all the questionnaires is needed. Captions of all figures should be more easily understandable.

**Recommendation:** I recommend this paper for publication in JAD pending major revisions.

-Abstract: please provide basic demographic information (e.g. age, gender) and size of the sample.

-Highlights: consider reformulating the first statement as it is not easily understandable as currently written.

-Methods: please consider providing a table including demographics, education, IQ, ethnicity, professional status, and mean/SD values for all the questionnaires.

-when describing the dairy daily event questionnaires it would be helpful to remind the readers how many measures were collected during the 2-week treatment for each questionnaire. For instance for daily stressful events the authors report that participants completed the questionnaire on six separate days. Was the same approach used for the other questionnaires?

-statistical analyses: could the authors provide the statistical threshold (p<.05?) used for their analyses? Did they adjust for multiple comparisons at any stage of their analyses?

-Also in your statistical section it would be helpful to mention that as part of your hierarchical analyses you will consider splitting the sample in high/low DTI, and that for each analysis you will conduct a second of analyses testing (for instance) whether the relationship between DI and worry was independent of co-occurring daily depressive symptoms.

-In the “statistical analysis” section I would describe the technique used to select variables for Level 1 and Level 2” of their hierarchical regressions without providing the results. The detailed description of the random ANOVA analysis and other t-tests (see the two paragraphs starting from “unconditional, random…fixed effect all models”) should be part of the results section. It could be titled “testing of potential predictors”.

-I struggle to understand why the authors report t-tests for the effect of time on worry, depressive, and anxiety symptoms. I thought there would be a number of measurements and that repeated ANOVA would be used. Could you please clarify?

-Also, could you please describe the variable “time”. Are we talking about a categorical, dummy variable for time?

-Could you please define whether assumptions such as singularity, collinearity (tolerance, VIF) were met? Also did you calculate correlations between predictors (I am wondering for instance if NA and NA trait correlated positively)? Were predictors independent from each other? Please include this kind of information in your methods (and results where appropriate).

-Results: please provide the overall significance of the model and parameters such as R2 and ΔR (additional variance) between the inclusion of level 1 and level 2 variables. Please include these parameters in your tables too.

-I noticed that the authors report that the interaction between DI and daily stressors approached significance (when considering daily depressive factors). However in the discussion the authors report both “main and interaction effects were found for daily depressive and worry”. I was wondering if the authors should mention that while it was significant for “worry” this was just a trend for depressive symptoms. It may be interesting to differentiate the effects of DI in worry and depression. Or at least mention that this effect was not as strong in depression as expected, and potential reasons for this.

-minor comments: in the sentence “interestingly…context of stress” I wonder if the authors should say that “daily worry symptoms was attributable to co-occurring daily depressive symptoms”. Didn’t the inclusion of depressive symptoms show that the interaction between stress and DI for worry was maintained? This was not the case for the interaction between DI and stress in depression.

-Figure 1-2: could the authors revise their captions and include units of measurement for axis x/y variables. Could they also explain what “absence” and “presence” refer to?

-sentence starting with “the observed specificity…” is possibly missing the word “symptoms” after depressive.