**AFFECT REGULATION DEFICITS IN FASD**

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**Objectives.** In response to new research, the revised 2015 Canadian Guidelines for Diagnosis of FASD includes deficits in Affect Regulation (AR) as a new domain for assessment.  Deficits in AR are defined as long-standing patterns of emotion dysregulation, present when criteria for depression or anxiety are met. Support for inclusion of AR in diagnosis comes from high rates of mental health issues in FASD as well as animal research showing a direct link between prenatal alcohol exposure and increased neuroendocrine response to stress. Although it is now in diagnostic criteria, the new Guidelines offer limited guidance regarding the evaluation of AR deficits. This study reviews the new category of AR within the context of FASD and proposes an operational criteria for AR evaluation. The proposed criteria is also tested for interrater reliability.

**Methods.** A proposed criteria for evaluating AR is presented and reviewed in this paper. The criteria aims to establish a current as well as a historical pattern of AR deficits. Interrater reliability for the proposed criteria was undertaken using 21 randomly selected adults (18-45 years) previously diagnosed at the FASD clinic.

**Results.** Two independent raters applied the proposed AR criteria and agreed that 29% of the sample met criteria for an AR deficit. A substantial level of agreement between the two raters (Cohen’s Kappa .79) was found.

**Discussion/Conclusions.** AR deficits can be reliably assessed in the context of FASD diagnosis using this criteria. The method also simplifies the process of AR assessment and enhances validity of the category by establishing a historical pattern, as well as current deficits.

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