

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59328

Title: Profil clinique et délai de recours aux soins des mineurs consultant en addictologie à Marrakech : addictions aux substances et usage problématique des écrans.

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
 Accept after minor revision.....
 ✓ Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strength of the study:

- Relevant pediatric addiction topic
- Clear study objectives
- Retrospective design is appropriate
- Clinical and social factors are well described
- Substance and screen use groups are compared
- Statistical methods are clearly stated
- Multiple testing correction is included
- Important follow up information is provided
- Limitations are openly discussed
- Findings have practical public health relevance

Weakness of the study:

- Very small sample of 30 patients
- Single centre study limits generalization
- Screen use criteria are not validated
- Ethical clearance is not clearly reported
- Retrospective records may contain missing information
- First use age is self reported
- Single investigator data collection may introduce bias
- Groups are unequal in size
- Results are exploratory and underpowered
- Some conclusions appear stronger than the data

Reviewers Comments:

This is an interesting and clinically relevant study describing minors attending an addiction service in Marrakech. The comparison between substance use and problematic screen use provides useful local information. However, the manuscript requires major revision. Ethical clearance is not clearly reported. Although the records were anonymized, the authors should provide the institutional ethics approval or waiver, particularly because the study involves minors. The sample size is small and the two groups are markedly unequal, limiting statistical power. The use of transferred severity thresholds for problematic screen use is not validated and should be presented more cautiously. The retrospective design, self reported age of first use and single investigator data collection may introduce bias. The authors appropriately acknowledge these limitations. Writing quality is generally understandable, but grammar, spacing, terminology and reference formatting need careful correction. Overall, the study has value as an exploratory local study, but the conclusions should remain cautious and the methodological and ethical details should be clarified.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

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Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:

An exact title search did not identify the same publication. I also did not find an obvious publication reporting the same Marrakech pediatric addiction series. However, the topic overlaps with existing Moroccan and international research on adolescent substance use, gaming disorder and treatment delay. A formal similarity check is recommended before publication.