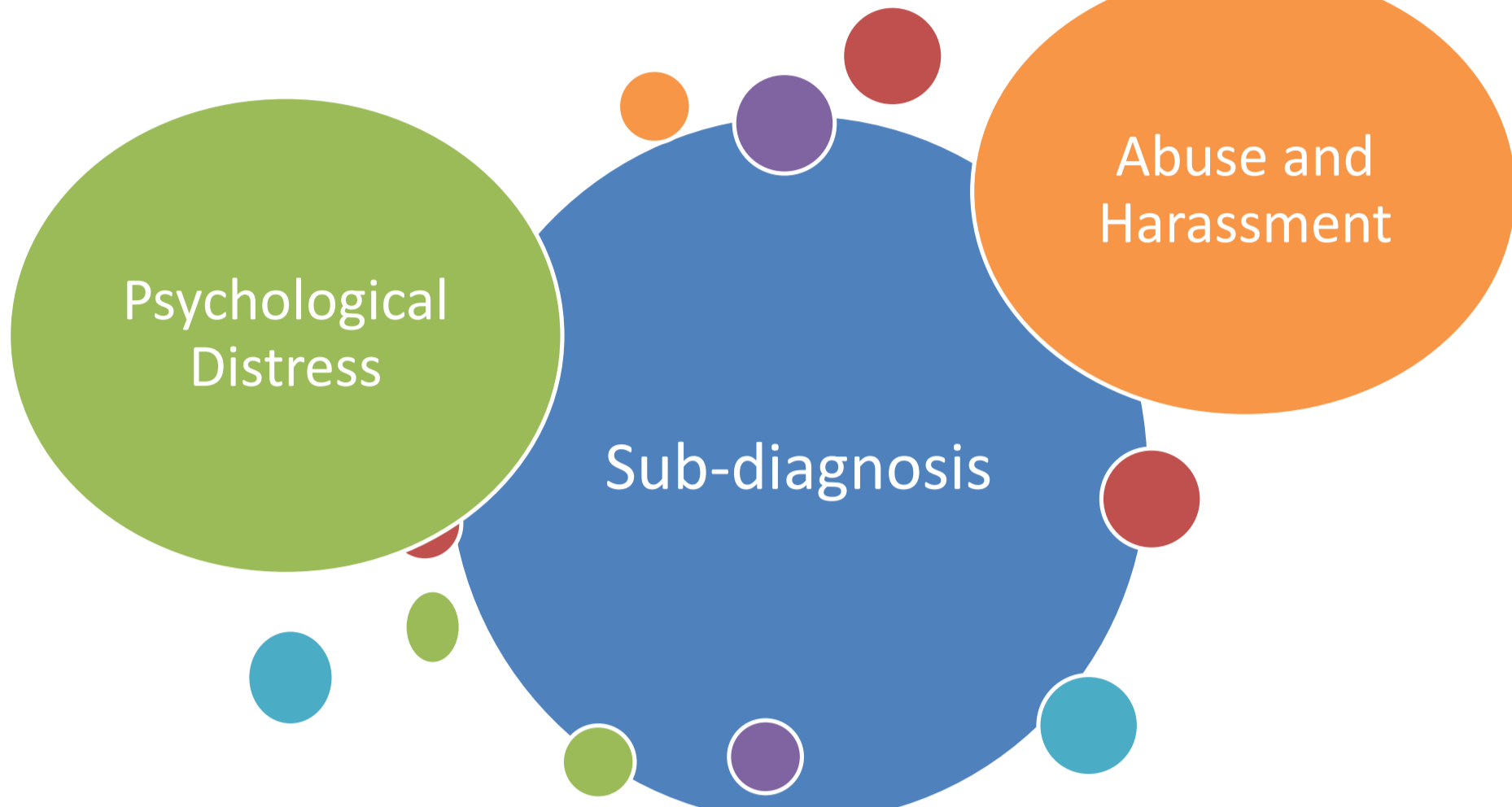


BACKGROUND

More and more studies point out a **female sub-diagnosis in Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)**. These women would show less outsourced behavior than men but similar internal difficulties. However, in clinical practice, this data seems to be forgotten and delays or misdiagnosis can be made. This can have **serious consequences** like anxiety, depression, suicide, sexual abuse and harassment.



It also seems that **High Intellectual Potential (HIP)** could increase the masking phenomenon and complicate the diagnosis of ASC for the women who have both.

OBJECTIVE

The current study aims to **explore the invisible difficulties of women with ASC** in parallel with HIP and typical women. We distinguish women with ASC from those with the dual specificity of ASC and HIP for consider if **HIP have an impact on the diagnosis** or potential peculiarities. We wanted to objectively **show the consequences of internal difficulties of women in relation with sensorial et social impairing**.

METHODS

Tests were completed online by **64 Typical women, 44 HIP women and 99 women with AS (56 AS and 43 AS and HIP)**.

- Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (Zigmond and Snaith, 1983)
- Sensorimotor subscale of RAADS-R (Ritvo and al., 2008),
- Autism Quotient (AQ) (Baron-Cohen and al., 2001)
- Functional Repercussion Scale of Social Cognition (ERF-CS) (Peyroux et Gaudelus, 2014).

Participants were aged between 18 and 75 years old (M=37,22 ; SD=10,99) without significant difference between groups. IQ means have no significant difference between HIP (M=137,02 ; SD=9,39) and ASC+HIP (M=136,19 ; SD=8,05).

RESULTS

Women with ASC have **more depressive disorders** than Gifted women and **more anxiety** than Typical. **HIP seems to protect women with ASC of anxiety**. Attention to details tends to be more important for them than to the other groups. **There's no significant differences between ASC and ASC+HIP groups.**

Scales and subscales	Control			HIP		ASC	
	HIP	ASC	ASC+HIP	ASC	ASC+HIP	HIP	ASC+HIP
Anxiety		*					
Depression				**	*		
Sensorimotor		***	***	***	***		
AQ		***	***	***	***		
Social Ability		***	***	***	***		
Attention Switching		***	***	***	***		
Attention to details			***		*		
Communication		***	***	***	***		
Imagination		***	***	***	***		
ERF-CS		***	***	***	***		
Emotional Processes		***	**	***	***		
TOM		***	***	***	***		
Attributional Style		***	***	***	***		
Social Inconvenience		***	***	***	***		
Frequency		***	***	***	***		

Table 1. Significant differences by scales and subscales between groups (Games Howell Test)
*p < .05 **p < .01 ***p ≤ .001

Spearman Test on all the population shows a **significant correlation between AQ and ERF-CS** (r = .86, p<.001) and **moderately significant between AQ and sensory-motor subscale** (r = .70, p<.001) as well as between this subscale and ERF-CS (r = .66, p<.001). We found too a **moderately significant correlation between sensory-motor subscale and daily inconvenience** (r = .64, p<.001) and between this subscale **and the frequency of difficulties** (r = .67, p<.001) create by lack of social cognition.

RESULTS (continued)

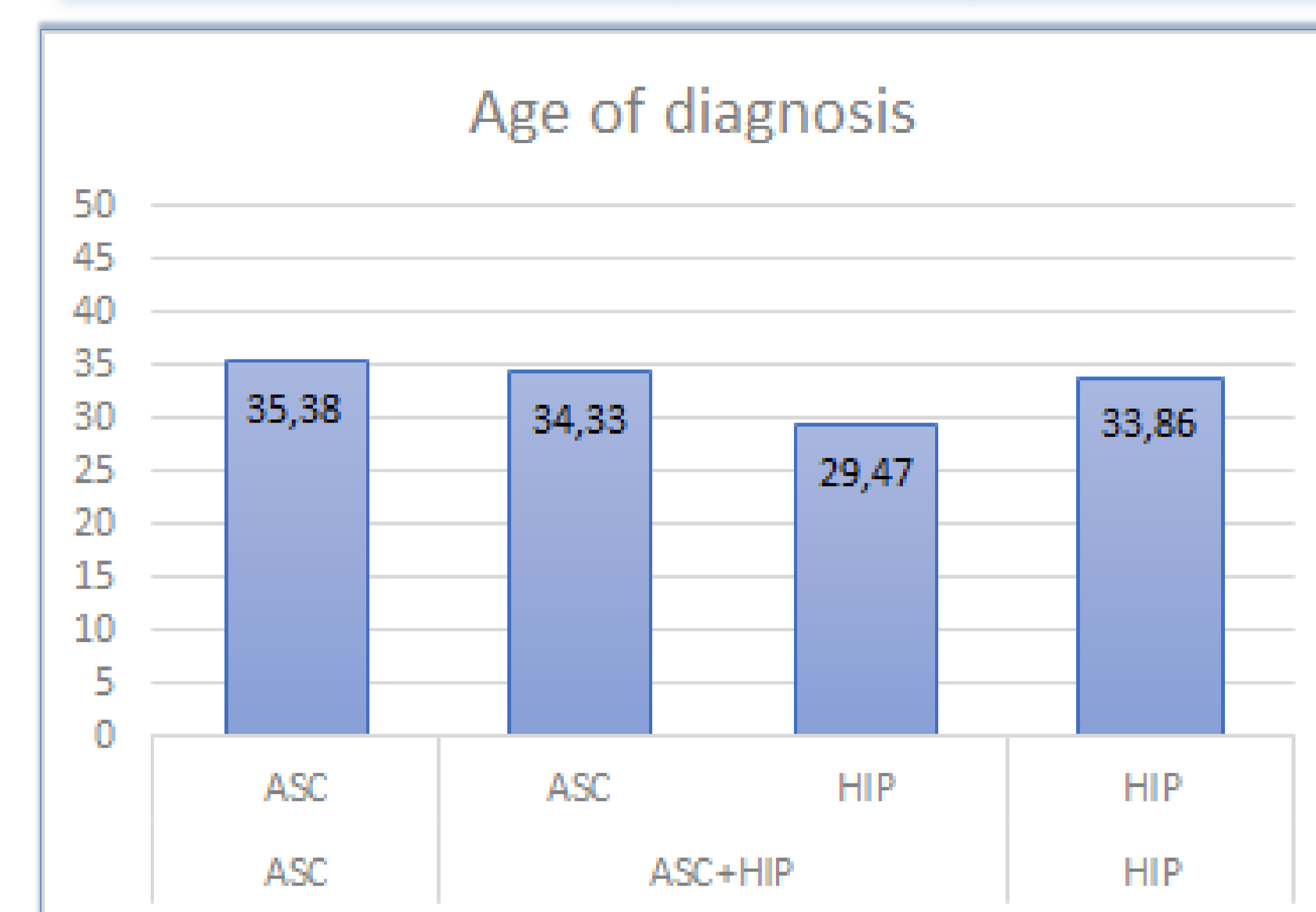
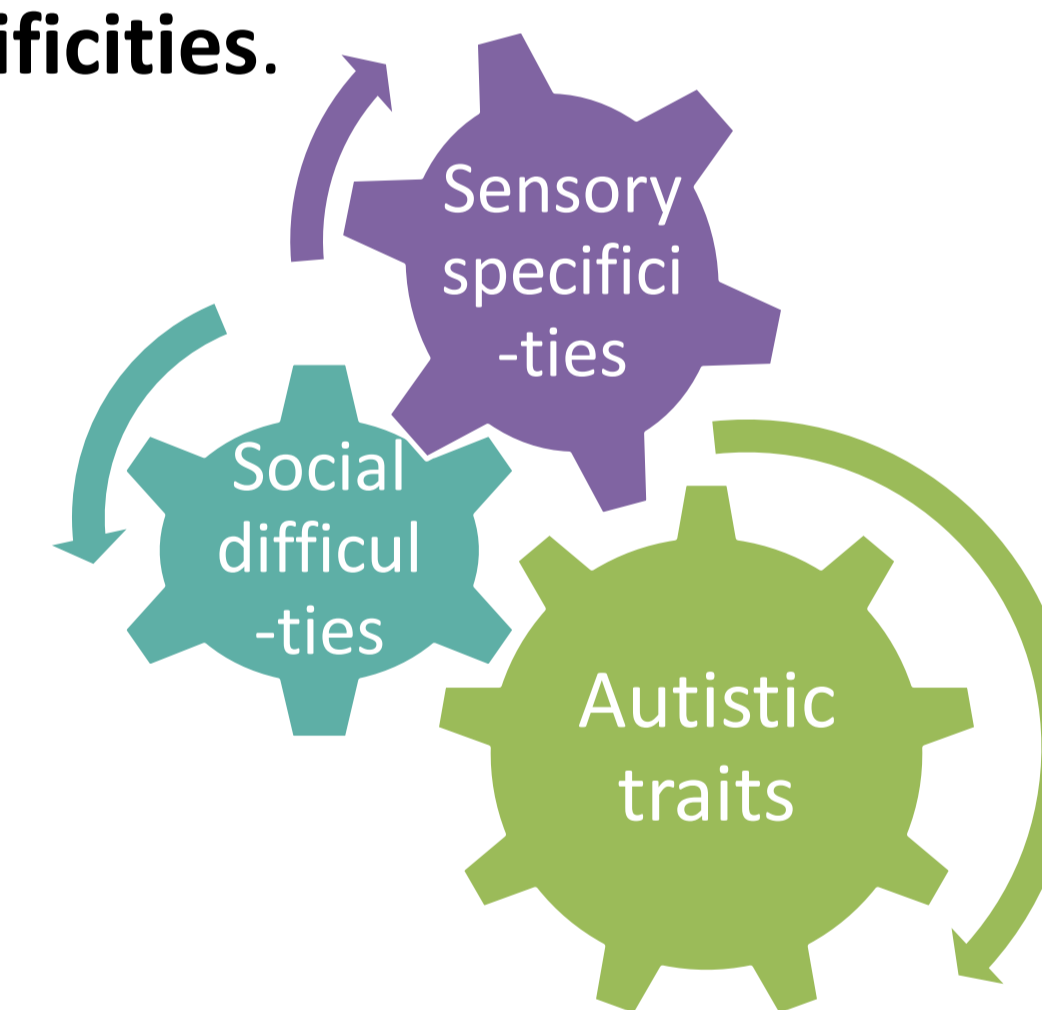


Figure 1. Age of screening of HIP or diagnosis of ASC between groups.

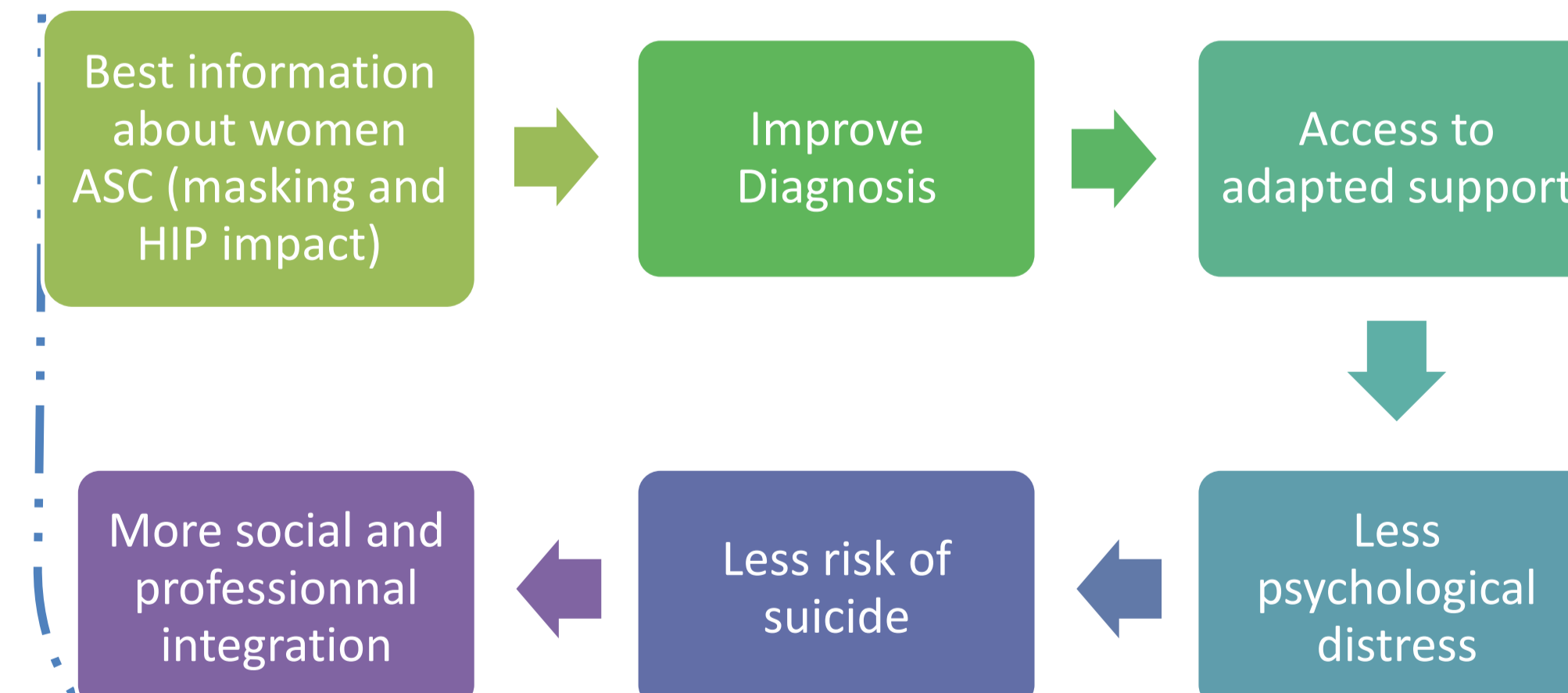
Analysis of the average age of diagnosis of ASC shows no significant differences between ASC and ASC and HIP groups. No significant difference is found too between the age of screening of HIP for ASC and HIP and HIP groups. **Women with dual specificity were diagnose with HIP 4 years earlier than women with HIP only**. On the 43 women with dual specificities, **only three of them were diagnosed with autism before being screened HIP**, the other were diagnose with ASC at the same times or few years after the screening of HIP.

DISCUSSION

We could here consider **the correlation between autistic traits, social difficulties and sensory specificities**.



Besides, we show that **high potential could delays the diagnosis of ASC**. A possible explanation is that HIP women and professionals attribute their specificities to HIP and don't consider ASC hypothesis before many years.



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