



The construct validity of the DSM-5-TR classification for intellectual disability (ID):

An explorative study in a Dutch clinical sample

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Background

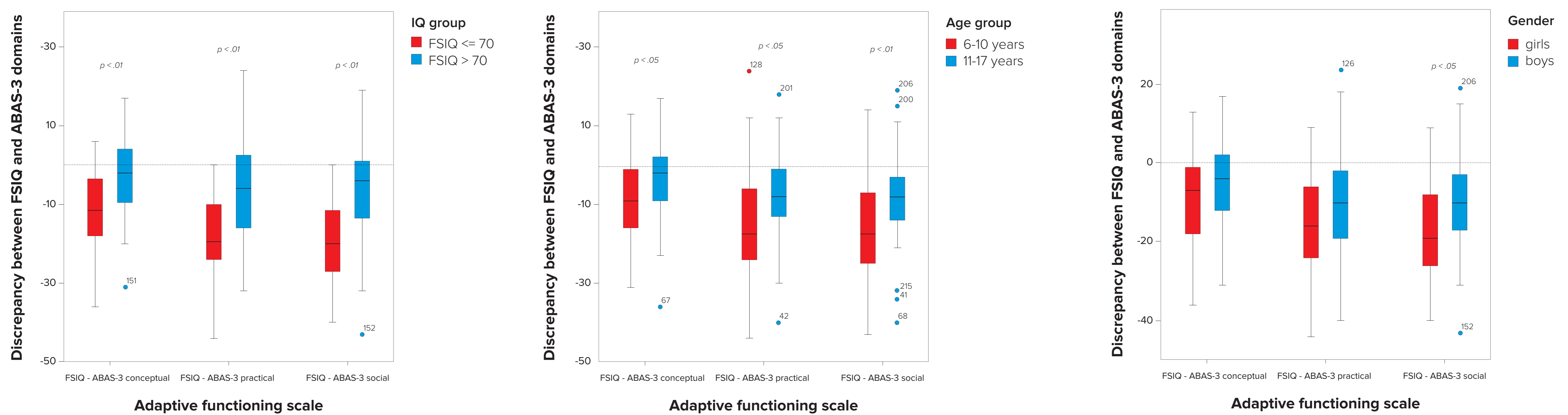
The merge of IQ and adaptive functioning in the DSM-5 IDD classification may pose difficulties as it may not be an invariant construct. The main objective of the current study was to examine the construct validity of the DSM-5 classification of IDD.

Method

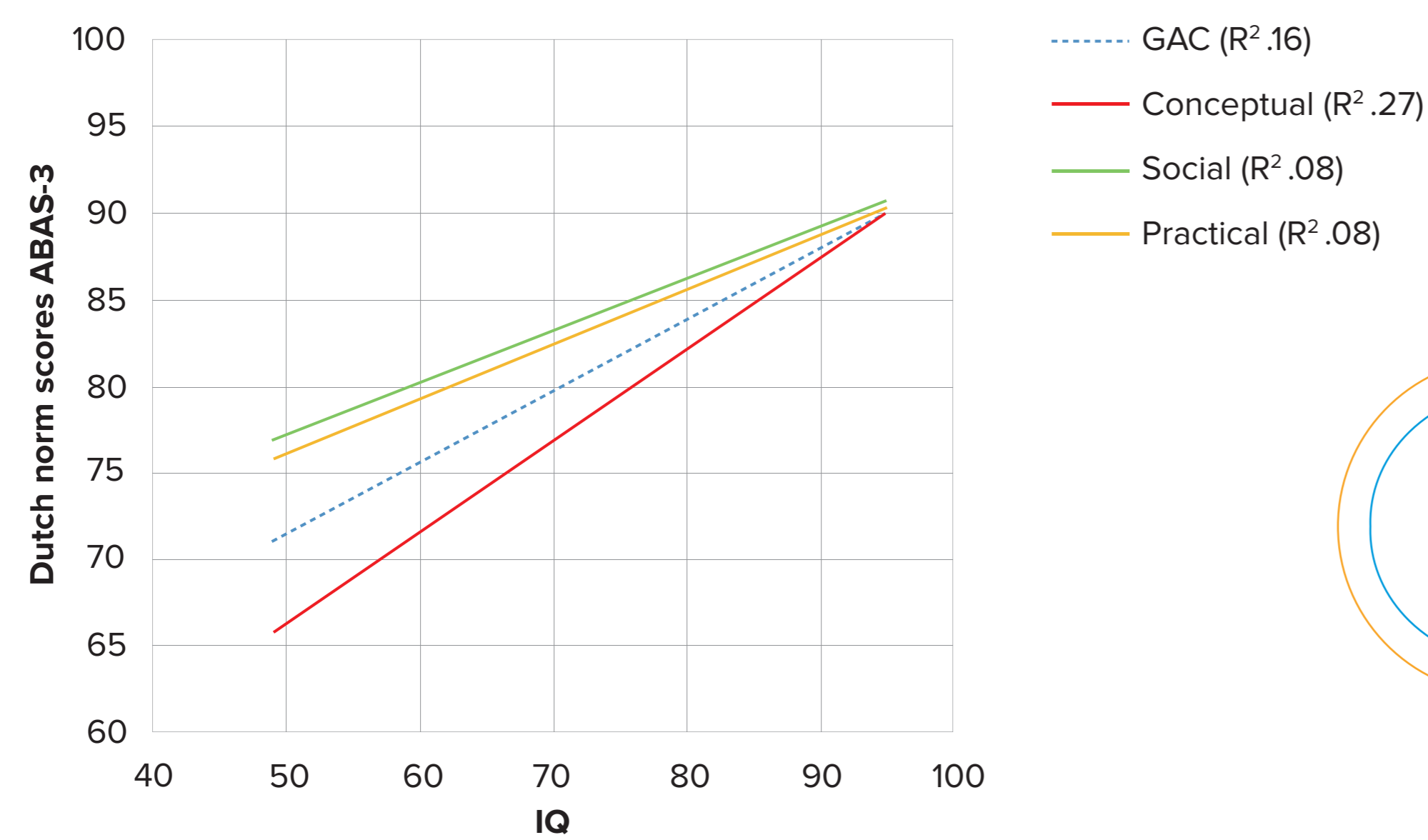
IQ, adaptive functioning and psychopathology were assessed using a full-scale IQ-test, the ABAS-3 questionnaire and the CBCL questionnaire in 78 children aged between 6:0 and 18;0 years (FSIQ) and their parents (ABAS, CBCL). Mean FSIQ 71.0 (SD 10.8), mean age 11.1 (SD 3.1), 62% male. Comorbidity included: ADHD, Autism, anxiety, depression, PTSD, ODD and other. Statistical analysis consisted of Pearson's correlations, discrepancy analysis and paired-t-tests.

Results

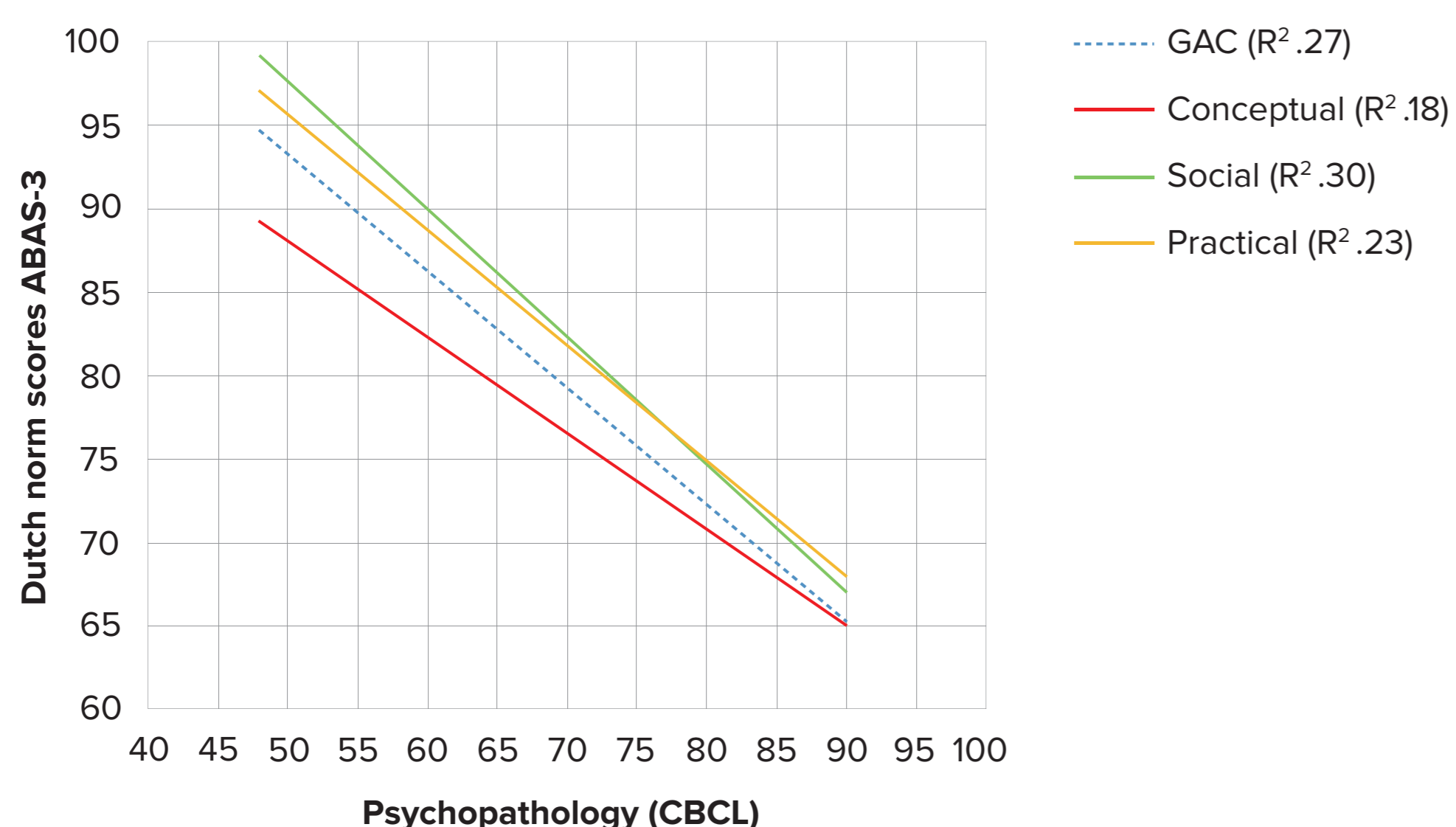
IQ and AF discrepancy across different groups



IQ and AF domains



Psychopathology and AF domains



Conclusion

The results suggest that the IDD definition based on two pillars (IQ and AF) is problematic, since we found a lack of divergent validity and measurement invariance. The stronger AF-psychopathology correlation than AF-FSIQ correlation (for social and practical AF) implies that AF is more strongly related to psychopathology than intellectual functioning. Since this did not apply to conceptual AF, one might consider constraining the AF pillar in the IDD definition to conceptual AF only and viewing practical and social AF as additive information but not crucial to classifying IDD.

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*AF = adaptive functioning

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