



A Study of the Validity of the Functional Assessment of Verbal Reasoning and Executive Functioning Test (FAVRES)

Project for 2007 - 2008

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Purpose of Study

The FAVRES (MacDonald & Johnson, 2005, *Brain Injury*) is a recently designed test of verbal reasoning and executive functioning making use of “functional” tasks that should provide results that are more easily translated into predictions about day-to-day activities. Such a device is particularly useful for rehabilitation staff that may lack the psychological training to interpret neuropsychological tests that measure the same constructs. As is true of most newer tests, the validity data is limited. MacDonald & Johnson (2005) reported that the FAVRES could differentiate a group of ABI adults from a non-ABI group.

The purpose of this study is to assess the convergent and divergent validity of the FAVRES by correlating it with an IQ test that is not designed to measure executive functioning, and a set of well-established conventional neuropsychological tests of executive functioning (EF). The FAVRES should correlate more highly with the EF tests than with the IQ tests.

Subjects

Approximately 40 adult volunteers from Brain Injury of Services of Hamilton (BISH) will be recruited, all of whom have well-defined and long-standing brain injuries.

Tests

The following tests will be administered by trained McMaster University students.

1. Functional Assessment of Verbal Reasoning and Executive Functioning Test (FAVRES)
2. Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scales – III

3. A select group of tests from – Verbal Fluency, Stroop Test, Mazes, Tower of Hanoi, Wisconsin Card Sort.

The level of brain injury and disability will be measured by a review of agency data regarding level of coma as measure by the Ranchos Los Amigos Scale (RLAS), a 7-level rating scale coma and the Disability Rating Form (DRF), an 8-item rating scale for level of functioning in a variety of functional daily living skill areas.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics will be calculated for all tests and subtests.

Test and subtest intercorrelations will be calculated using SPSS.

Predictions

1. FAVRES scores should be highly correlated with EF tests.
2. FAVRES scores should be significantly less correlated with IQ scales.
3. EF and IQ scales should be only moderately correlated.
4. EF, IQ and FAVRES measures should be significantly negatively correlated with level of coma and level of disability.

References

MACDONALD, S. & JOHNSON, C. J. Assessment of subtle cognitive communication deficits following acquired brain injury: A normative study of the Functional Assessment of Verbal Reasoning and Executive Strategies (FAVRES). *Brain Injury*, October 2005; 19(11): 895–902.