Grace, J., Malloy, P. E, & Stout, J.

Assessing Frontal Behavioral Syndromes: Reliability and Validity of the Frontal Lobe Personality Scale.

The Frontal Lobe Personality Scale (FLOPS) is a new instrument designed to quantify three frontal behavioral syndromes (executive, disinhibition, apathy) which have been theoretically associated with three different anatomical frontal-subcortical circuits (dorsolateral, orbital, mesial/cingulate (Mega & Cummings, 1994). Three versions of the FLOPS were developed (Grace & Malloy, 1992): patient self-rating, family rating, and staff rating forms. Within each form, the 46 items are distributed among three subscales which assess executive, disinhibition and apathy behaviors. Seventy four subjects were included in this validation study: 18 focal frontal lesions (FL) patients, 17 unipolar depressed (UD), 18 bipolar (BP), and 20 normal controls (NC). Subjects were matched with the frontal cases for age and education. Total scale (46 items) and the 3 subscales reliability was examined using internal consistency measures. Both the total scale (.95) and 3 subscales (.81-.92) were found to have a high degree of internal consistency. FL patients were rated as significantly different relative to NC on both patient (p = .0001) and family (p = .0001) versions of the FLOPS, with FL patients being more behavior disordered on all dimensions. Subscales also were significantly different between FL and NC groups. FL patients were then compared to psychiatric patients. FL and UD groups were rated as significantly different on both patient self-ratings and family ratings. FL and BP differed significantly on the apathy and executive subscales but not on the disinhibition scales as would be predicted by previous studies of frontal compromise in bipolar patients and the disinhibited nature of manic behavior. FL and UD were significantly different on the apathy scale suggesting that frontal apathetic behavior is a different behavioral entity from anhedonia of depression. Findings from this study indicate that frontal behavioral syndromes can be reliably rated on the FLOPS by patient and family members. In addition, the FLOPS validity is confirmed by its ability to distinguish normal controls from frontal lesion cases. Further, these differences are not due to abnormal behavior per se since the FLOPS also distinguishes frontal behavior from psychiatric behavior. In summary the FLOPS is a brief, reliable and valid new measure of frontal behavioral syndromes which fills a gap in traditional neuropsychological assessment by quantifying these well recognized frontal behaviors.


Reference Group Data for The Reitan-Indiana Neuropsychological Test Battery for Young Children.

The lack of normative and reference group data for child neuropsychological test batteries remains a critical problem for the field of child neuropsychology. This lack of data is particularly salient for the Reitan-Indiana Neuropsychological Test Battery for Young Children (ages 5 through 8 years). The purpose of this study is to present commonly used normative and reference group data sets for this population in comparison to a newly acquired data set in terms of means, standard deviations, sample size, and population characteristics. The new data set is comprised of a sample of approximately 200 children, ages 5 through 8 years, referred to a special services cooperative for academic or behavioral concerns, during the years 1980 through 1993. Potential advantages of this new data set include; larger sample sizes, contemporary data collection, and a sample drawn from a United States, school referred population.