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Abstract

Effects of Familiarity with Computer and Type of Keyboard on Computerized Neurobehavioral Performance Tests

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Objectives: A stratified cross-over study was conducted to evaluate the effects of familiarity with computer on the performance of computerized neurobehavioral tests. Effects of keyboard type on the relationship between familiarity with computer and performance of computerized neurobehavioral tests were also examined.

Methods: We tested 70 persons classified into three groups according to degree of familiarity with computer: Group 1 was people with no computer competency, Group 2 had slight working experience on the computer, and Group 3 were highly competent and efficient on the computer.

For each group, we executed 4 tests of the Korean version of the Swedish Performance Evaluation System (Simple Reaction Time, Addition, Symbol Digit, and Finger Tapping Speed). Three types of keyboard were applied for all three groups. Type 1 keyboard was a conventional layout with 106 keys. We removed the unused keys except for the 17 which were used in the test and remodeled the normal keyboard into Type 2 keyboard with 17 keys (10 numeric keys, 4 arrow keys, space bar, and both Ctrl keys). Type 3 keyboard with 11 keys consisted of 10 numeric keys and the space bar was newly developed for the computerized neurobehavioral performance test.

Results: It was found that Simple Reaction Time, Addition, and Finger Tapping Speed were not affected by familiarity with computer and type of keyboard. The mean reaction time of Symbol Digit adjusted by age and educational level with Type 1 keyboard was found to have significant difference among the three groups ($F=3.347$, $p=0.041$). The performance of Symbol Digit in Group 1 was found to be significantly lower than that in Group 2. The performances of Symbol Digit measured with Types 2 and 3 keyboards were not found to have significant differences among the three groups. In Groups 1 and 3, the performances of Symbol Digit measured

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with Type 1 keyboard were found to be significantly lower than those of other keyboards.

Conclusions: According to the above results, Simple Reaction Time, Addition, and Finger Tapping Speed have high priority over other neurobehavioral tests for the workers having varying degrees of computer familiarity. It is also suggested that familiarity with computer and keyboard type needs to be considered in interpretation of the performance of Symbol Digit. We recommended executing the computerized neurobehavioral test with keyboards 2 or 3 to reduce the effect of computer familiarity.

Key Words: Neurobehavioral, Familiarity, Type of Keyboard

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Neurobehavioral Evaluation System(NES)

(Krieg, 2001), Behavioral Assessment and Research System(BARS)

9BUTTON Datasled(Anger, 1996; Rohlman, 2003)

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Fig. 1. 2

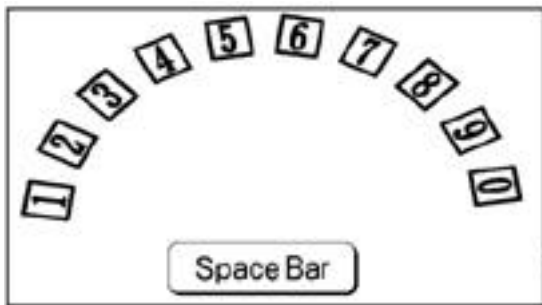


Fig. 2. 3

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(Table 3).

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Table 1. General characteristics of study subject

Characteristics	Group* (n=24)	Group (n=21)	Group (n=25)	Total (n=70)	F value	P value
Age (years)	49.9 (8.7) [‡]	33.6 (7.8) [§]	28.9 (4.0) [§]	37.5 (11.5)	58.880	0.001
Sex (number)						0.864
Men	14	11	14	39		
Women	10	10	11	31		
Education (years)	10.3 (3.3)	15.3 (2.5) [‡]	17.1 (2.5) [‡]	14.2 (4.1)	39.605	0.001
Typing speed [†]	0	79.2 (28.6)	224.2 (68.2)	103.9 (105.1)	165.983	0.001

The values are expressed as mean (standard deviation) for age, education, and typing speed.

*Group : people who have no competency using computers, group : people who have slight working experience on the computers, group : people who are highly competent and efficient on the computers.

† Number of Korean character typed in a minute.

There was significant differences between ‡ and § by post Hoc test of Bonferroni F.

There was significant differences between ¶ and ¶¶ by post Hoc test of Bonferroni F.

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Table 2. Neurobehavioral test scores by group on each keyboard types*

Neurobehavioral test	Group	Group	Group	F value	P value
Simple Reaction Time (ms) [†]					
Mean reaction time					
Keyboard type	309.6 (23.4)	301.6 (16.7)	319.8 (19.3)	0.338	0.714
Keyboard type	307.2 (22.4)	291.6 (15.7)	313.3 (17.7)	0.627	0.538
Keyboard type	305.5 (21.1)	293.4 (15.1)	302.9 (17.5)	0.178	0.837
S.D. of mean reaction time					
Keyboard type	49.6 (6.5)	55.5 (4.6)	55.8 (5.4)	0.222	0.801
Keyboard type	48.2 (7.7)	56.4 (5.4)	64.9 (6.1)	1.135	0.328
Keyboard type	58.6 (9.3)	58.2 (6.6)	60.9 (7.7)	0.047	0.954
Addition (ms) [†]					
Mean reaction time					
Keyboard type	3704.0 (407.8)	2806.9 (290.9)	3123.2 (336.9)	1.497	0.232
Keyboard type	3217.6 (393.0)	2640.2 (274.7)	3048.5 (317.1)	1.074	0.348
Keyboard type	3402.2 (381.2)	2613.3 (266.4)	2810.1 (307.6)	1.249	0.294
S.D. of mean reaction time					
Keyboard type	1123.5 (191.8)	721.1 (136.8)	880.7 (158.4)	1.426	0.248
Keyboard type	898.1 (168.4)	727.9 (117.6)	938.6 (135.8)	1.050	0.356
Keyboard type	1014.7 (164.7)	711.9 (115.1)	827.6 (132.9)	1.107	0.337
Number of error					
Keyboard type	2.5 (1.0)	2.3 (0.7)	3.8 (0.8)	1.283	0.284
Keyboard type	2.4 (1.1)	2.3 (0.8)	3.5 (0.9)	0.679	0.511
Keyboard type	1.7 (1.0)	2.4 (0.7)	3.1 (0.8)	0.410	0.665

The values are expressed as mean (standard deviation) adjusted by age and education.

S.D.: standard deviation.

*Keyboard type is conventional layout with 106 keys, keyboard type is removed the unused keys except for the 17 which were used in the test and remodeled normal keyboard with 17 keys (consisted of 10 numeric keys, 4 arrow keys, space bar, and both ctrl keys), and keyboard type with 11 keys consisted of 10 numeric keys and space bar.

† Scores of Simple Reaction Time and Addition are latencies (in ms) except for number of error of Addition, so lower scores indicate better performance.

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Table 3. Neurobehavioral test scores by group on each keyboard types

Neurobehavioral test	Group	Group	Group	F value	P value
Symbol Digit (ms)*					
Mean reaction time					
Keyboard type	3448.4 (270.4) [‡]	2520.3 (192.9) [§]	2753.3 (223.4)	3.347	0.041
Keyboard type	2498.3 (147.6)	2221.3 (105.2)	2305.2 (121.9)	1.042	0.358
Keyboard type	2637.5 (263.3)	2296.6 (187.8)	2409.3 (217.5)	0.508	0.604
S.D. of mean reaction time					
Keyboard type	492.7 (246.6)	797.1 (175.9)	991.7 (203.7)	0.825	0.443
Keyboard type	486.6 (121.1)	606.7 (86.3)	784.7 (100.0)	1.550	0.220
Keyboard type	544.6 (147.7)	654.2 (105.4)	910.7 (122.0)	1.882	0.161
Number of error					
Keyboard type	0.6 (0.3)	0.5 (0.2)	1.1 (0.3)	1.672	0.196
Keyboard type	0.4 (0.4)	0.6 (0.3)	0.9 (0.4)	0.431	0.652
Keyboard type	0.7 (0.3)	0.7 (0.2)	0.5 (0.2)	0.185	0.832
Finger Tapping Speed [†]					
Dominant hand					
Keyboard type	62.8 (2.4)	67.6 (3.6)	73.9 (5.0)	1.627	0.212
Keyboard type	62.7 (1.7)	67.3 (2.5)	73.2 (3.4)	3.047	0.061
Keyboard type	62.8 (2.3)	65.4 (3.4)	71.4 (4.7)	1.125	0.337
S.D. of dominant hand					
Keyboard type	2.0 (0.4)	2.0 (0.6)	2.4 (0.8)	0.122	0.886
Keyboard type	2.3 (0.3)	1.7 (0.5)	2.8 (0.7)	1.175	0.322
Keyboard type	2.5 (0.3)	1.6 (0.4)	1.7 (0.6)	1.392	0.263
Non-dominant hand					
Keyboard type	57.0 (2.0)	60.4 (2.9)	60.5 (4.0)	0.440	0.648
Keyboard type	57.6 (1.7)	60.8 (2.5)	61.9 (3.5)	0.629	0.540
Keyboard type	55.5 (2.2)	58.9 (3.2)	61.6 (4.4)	0.641	0.533
S.D. of non-dominant hand					
Keyboard type	1.6 (0.4)	2.5 (0.6)	3.5 (0.8)	1.897	0.166
Keyboard type	1.9 (0.4)	1.5 (0.6)	3.0 (0.8)	1.455	0.248
Keyboard type	2.2 (0.4)	2.2 (0.5)	1.6 (0.7)	0.255	0.777

The values are expressed as mean (standard deviation) adjusted by age and education.

*Score of Symbol Digit is latencies (in ms) except for number of error, so lower score indicates better performance

† Score of Finger Tapping Speed is the number of taps in 10 s.

There was significant difference between ‡ and § by Bonferroni F.

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Table 4. Neurobehavioral test scores by keyboard type on each groups

Neurobehavioral test	Keyboard Type			F value	P value
Simple Reaction Time (ms)					
Mean reaction time					
Group	345.5 (111.8)	344.7 (96.8)	337.0 (94.6)	0.050	0.951
Group	290.1 (39.0)	278.8 (40.4)	283.3 (41.4)	0.412	0.664
Group	294.9 (46.1)	289.1 (52.7)	281.0 (50.0)	0.492	0.614
S.D. of mean reaction time					
Group	64.8 (30.4)	69.7 (32.7)	78.0 (42.2)	0.845	0.434
Group	50.7 (14.7)	49.2 (13.2)	52.2 (16.5)	0.212	0.809
Group	45.2 (14.2)	50.8 (23.3)	47.2 (23.1)	0.472	0.625
Addition (ms)					
Mean reaction time					
Group	4828.0 (2232.2)	4351.5 (2191.1)	4248.4 (1969.3)	0.496	0.611
Group	2482.4 (671.5)	2337.5 (603.2)	2388.7 (768.4)	0.242	0.786
Group	2316.8 (479.2)	2259.5 (492.1)	2220.3 (460.2)	0.258	0.773
S.D. of mean reaction time					
Group	1487.1 (1001.0)	1354.4 (921.0)	1330.4 (815.5)	0.200	0.819
Group	620.1 (318.6)	610.3 (342.2)	629.3 (337.9)	0.017	0.983
Group	616.5 (290.5)	617.6 (314.7)	606.5 (276.1)	0.011	0.989
Number of error					
Group	5.2 (5.1)	4.8 (5.7)	4.3 (5.1)	0.155	0.857
Group	1.6 (1.8)	1.6 (1.7)	1.7 (1.6)	0.038	0.963
Group	1.9 (2.1)	1.8 (1.9)	1.2 (1.5)	0.238	0.627

The values are expressed as mean (standard deviation).

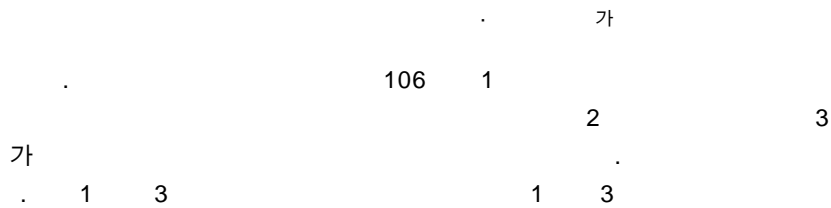


Table 5. Neurobehavioral test scores by keyboard type on each groups

Neurobehavioral test	Keyboard Type			F value	P value
	1	3	2		
Symbol Digit (ms)					
Mean reaction time					
Group	4630.5 (1682.4)*	3265.6 (964.9) [†]	3519.3 (1534.9) [†]	6.197	0.003
Group	2166.9 (318.6)	1991.1 (225.6)	2032.4 (187.4)	2.841	0.066
Group	1915.3 (148.6) [‡]	1761.1 (135.3) [§]	1784.7 (132.1) [§]	8.950	0.001
S.D. of mean reaction time					
Group	1201.3 (1372.3)	997.5 (740.5)	1055.1 (830.2)	0.255	0.776
Group	585.1 (289.0)	455.6 (145.5)	504.2 (183.0)	1.949	0.151
Group	489.6 (167.7)	421.2 (134.7)	546.6 (258.1)	2.617	0.080
Number of error					
Group	1.1 (1.1)	1.0 (1.8)	1.0 (1.4)	0.020	0.981
Group	0.4 (0.7)	0.4 (0.6)	0.6 (0.7)	0.563	0.572
Group	0.7 (1.1)	0.5 (1.3)	0.3 (0.5)	1.242	0.295
Finger Tapping Speed					
Dominant hand					
Group	60.9 (10.2)	60.5 (6.8)	59.4 (9.8)	0.178	0.838
Group	69.7 (10.9)	68.9 (8.2)	69.1 (12.2)	0.013	0.987
Group	78.0 (5.8)	80.0 (7.3)	79.0 (6.0)	0.146	0.866
S.D. of dominant hand					
Group	2.2 (2.0)	2.5 (1.7)	2.5 (1.3)	0.251	0.779
Group	1.8 (1.1)	1.4 (0.5)	1.7 (1.0)	0.562	0.461
Group	2.2 (0.8)	2.3 (1.0)	1.8 (0.8)	0.530	0.599
Non-dominant hand					
Group	54.9 (8.5)	56.4 (7.2)	54.1 (8.0)	0.476	0.623
Group	62.7 (7.7)	62.2 (7.1)	60.4 (8.4)	0.045	0.835
Group	64.8 (7.7)	64.3 (6.2)	64.8 (10.3)	0.007	0.993
S.D. of non-dominant hand					
Group	1.9 (1.6)	1.9 (1.4)	2.2 (1.5)	0.241	0.787
Group	2.1 (1.5)	1.6 (0.9)	2.2 (1.2)	0.795	0.463
Group	2.8 (1.8)	3.0 (2.8)	1.7 (1.2)	0.764	0.483

The values are expressed as mean (standard deviation).

There was significant difference between * and † by post Hoc test of Boferroni F.

There was significant difference between ‡ and § by post Hoc test of Boferroni F.

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