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Abstract

Impact of Subjects' Characteristics and Test Conditions on Reliability of Neurobehavioral Tests

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Objectives: This study was conducted to select neurobehavioral tests that are more reliable and less affected by subjects characteristics and test conditions.

Methods: Five computerized and five traditional neurobehavioral tests and retests were administered to 85 medical school students and 35 hospital workers. The computerized tests consisted of the Simple Reaction Time, Addition, Symbol Digit, Digit Span, and Finger Tapping Speed, while the traditional tests comprised the Benton Visual Retention test, Digit Symbol, Digit Span, Pursuit Aiming, and pegboard. In addition, the effects of various factors on the reliability of the neurobehavioral tests, including age, sex, educational level, computer familiarity, test intervals, and test time of day, were also evaluated.

Results: Among the computerized neurobehavioral tests, the reliability of Addition, Symbol Digit, Digit Span, and Finger Tapping Speed were not affected significantly by age, sex, test interval, or computer familiarity. It was found that Finger Tapping Speed is not affected by educational level. When the time of retest was incongruous with the time of the first test, test-retest reliability was lower in most neurobehavioral tests except computerized Addition, Digit Span, and Finger Tapping Speed, and traditional Digit Symbol.

Conclusions: These results suggest that the computerized Addition, Symbol Digit, Digit Span, and Finger Tapping Speed, and the traditional Digit Symbol are more satisfactory for our purposes. These results should facilitate selection of the most appropriate tests for periodical evaluation of the central nervous system of workers exposed to neurotoxic substances in Korea.

Key Words: Neurobehavioral, Reliability

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* 1998

90

(subject characteristics)

(time related factors)

(Gamberale, 1989; Lezak, 1995).

(Campbell, 1990; Kang, 2000)

(Campbell, 1990;

1 2

가 가

가

가

가

(stability)

가

가

(reliability) (Campbell, 1990; Rohlman, 2001)

85 (Table 1)

35

(Campbell, 1998) (Campbell, 2000b)

가

가 1 (84%), 1 (20%) 3 (16%)

(environmental factors),

mental factors),

가 16 (18.8%)

65

(59.62%) 44 (40.4%)

(100),
(101-200) (201)

. 11
(Table 1).

가

1-2

가 가 (2000b)

26

(Simple Reaction Time), (Addition),

(0.84) 25 (0.75)
(0.80)가 (0.71)

(Symbol Digit), (Digit Span) 가 (Finger Tapping Speed)

14 (0.95) 15
(15-16 0.87, 17 0.86)

(Digit Span), (Pursuit Aiming), (Digit Symbol), (pegboard)

(0.94)가 (0.82)
가 .

Benton (Benton visual retention test) 10 가

가 . 가

Swedish performance evaluation system Korean version (SPES-K)

가

(106 keys) 가 . Benton

(1994) (1998)

가 Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient (reliability coefficient)

가

SPSS-PC/Win

가

(Table 2).

68 (56.7%) 52 (43.3%)

7

54 가

가

1 84

가

70% 3

Table 1. Distribution of study subjects by demographic and neurobehavioral test related characteristics

Characteristics	Medical students(n=85)	Hospital workers(n=35)	Total(n=120)
Age(yrs.)			
20~25	79(92.9%)	15(42.9%)	94(78.3%)
26~37	6(7.1)	20(57.1)	26(21.7)
Sex			
Male	45(52.9)	23(65.7)	68(56.7)
Female	40(47.1)	12(34.3)	52(43.3)
Education(yrs.)			
12	- (-)	7(20.0)	7(5.8)
13-14	15(17.6)	10(28.6)	25(20.8)
15-16	34(40.0)	16(45.7)	50(41.7)
16-17	18(21.2)	- (-)	18(15.0)
18	18(21.2)	2(5.7)	20(16.7)
Computer familiarity (No. of typing in 1 min.)			
-100	7(8.2)	13(37.1)	20(16.7)
101-200	33(38.8)	13(37.1)	46(38.3)
201-	45(52.9)	9(25.7)	54(45.0)
Test interval			
1month	58(68.2)	26(74.3)	84(70.0)
1year	11(12.9)	9(25.7)	20(16.7)
3years	16(18.8)	- (-)	16(13.3)
Test time of day			
Same	54(63.5)	11(31.4)	65(54.2)
Different	31(36.5)	13(37.1)	44(36.7)
Unknown	- (-)	11(31.4)	11(9.1)

가 (Gamberale, 1985; Iregren Letz, 1992; Letz, 1993)

가 . 가 (1994) 가

가

. Benton

가

가

1 1 가 (Table 3).

가 가 . 가

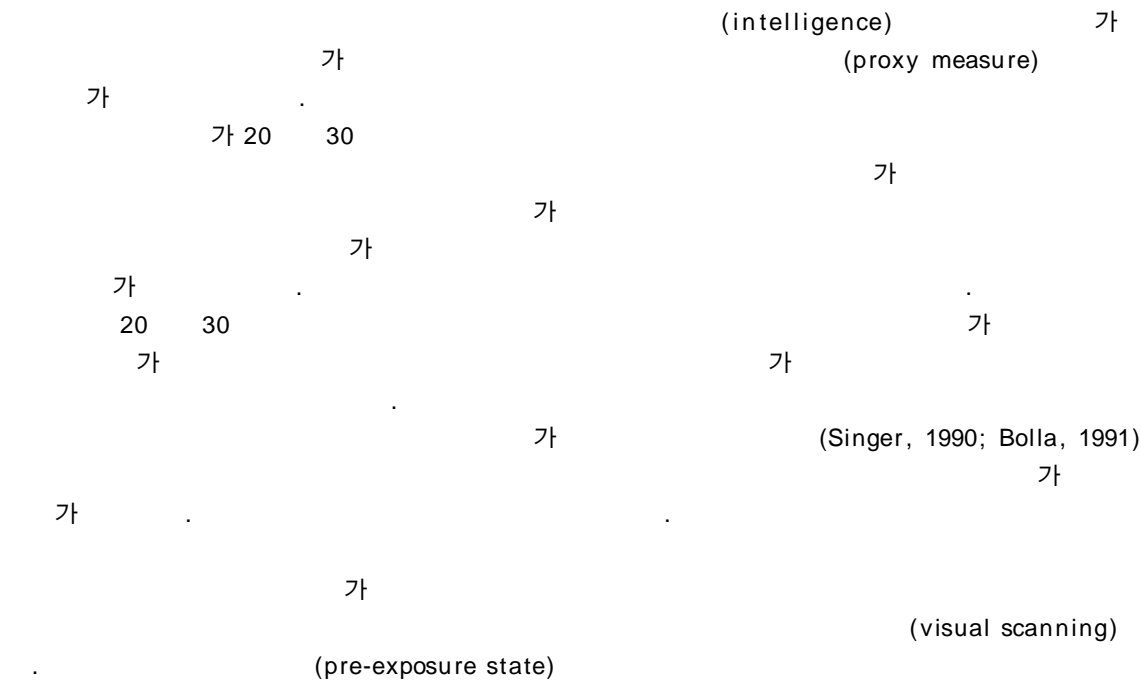
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Table 2. Reliability coefficients of neurobehavioral tests by characteristics of subjects

Tests	Age(yrs.)		Sex		Education(yrs.)			Group	
	20~25	26~37	Mal	Female	-14	15~16	16-	Student	Worker
Computerized									
Simple reaction time	0.75**	0.84**	0.71**	0.80**	0.88**	0.74**	0.77**	0.75**	0.82**
Addition	0.89**	0.92**	0.92**	0.89**	0.95**	0.87**	0.86**	0.82**	0.94**
Symbol digit	0.81**	0.85**	0.83**	0.80**	0.89**	0.80**	0.76**	0.75**	0.86**
Digit span	0.74**	0.70**	0.78**	0.62**	0.83**	0.73**	0.67**	0.70**	0.72**
Finger tapping speed									
Dominant hand	0.85**	0.87**	0.84**	0.83**	0.90**	0.87**	0.83**	0.83**	0.91**
Nondominant hand	0.89**	0.92**	0.91**	0.79**	0.88**	0.88**	0.92**	0.90**	0.87**
Traditional									
Benton visual									
retention test	0.70**	0.36*	0.68**	0.43**	0.92**	0.01	0.46**	0.67**	0.50**
Digit symbol	0.82**	0.90**	0.84**	0.86**	0.84**	0.92**	0.76**	0.79**	0.89**
Digit span									
Forward	0.45**	0.33	0.66**	0.29*	0.58**	0.51**	0.33*	0.41**	0.21
Backward	0.49**	0.50**	0.54**	0.48**	0.58**	0.44**	0.41**	0.38**	0.39*
Total	0.62**	0.43**	0.67**	0.51**	0.68**	0.54**	0.58**	0.56**	0.23
Pursuit aiming									
Correct dot	0.69**	0.81**	0.72**	0.60**	0.70**	0.80**	0.55**	0.65**	0.80**
Error	0.57**	0.46*	0.50**	0.60**	0.48**	0.62**	0.47**	0.61**	0.27
Pegboard	0.64**	0.67**	0.54**	0.70**	0.72**	0.56**	0.65**	0.63**	0.71**

* p<0.05, ** p<0.01.



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 : 85 (45 , 40)
 35 (23 , 12)
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 가 가 가 가 . , 44 65
 가 가 가 . SPES-K

