

Poster presentation

The Aphasia Screening test (A.S.T.): a pilot study, and validation of the test for the Greek Aphasic population

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Background

The present research was a pilot study and validation of an adults' aphasia test for the Greek population. The Aphasia Screening Test for adult's aphasia (A.S.T.) was originally created by Renata Whurr from the existing battery tests and from her exercises. The 1st edition was published in (1974) and its purpose is a fast assessment and rating of adult's aphasia. The 2nd edition was created after a long turn reliability researches by the same author in 1996.

Materials and methods

In this research took part 100 participants (50 aphasic and 50 non - aphasic subjects) recruited from the Greek health setting - region of Attica. The screening test was administered to all aphasic and non - aphasic participants. The sample was taken in random order; it was independent from origin and socio - economic situations. It was aged from 45 till 91 years of age [aphasics (min: 49, max: 91, mean: 68.72, strd.v. 11.52) and non - aphasics (min: 45, max: 85, mean: 60.24, strd.v. 10.62)], for the total of the sample. Also an ENT, psychiatric, neurological and a psychological examination were also requested. All the subjects had no other medical problems that could probably influence the test results.

Results

Statistical analysis of the data revealed that the results obtained are generally consistent with the results reported in other countries. No statistically significant differences

were found between the results obtained for the Greek population and the results reported in the USA population in all diagnostic categories and the subtests the test has.

Conclusions

The test appears to be sensitive to adult aphasic symptomatology in the Greek population and presents satisfactory criterion and content validity as the aphasic participants assessed demonstrated clear patterns of deficit. The usefulness of the battery for the Greek population in clinical and research settings is also discussed.