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Draw-A-Line Slowly Task. Performance on the fourth response set had the strongest relationships with these indices of inhibition. The results of this study suggest that this is a promising instrument for assessing executive functioning skills in preschool children. Additional research is needed to determine whether or not scores on the PTDL can differentiate known clinical groups with impairment in executive functioning skills.

Karzmark, P.
Validation Study of the Serial Seven Procedure.
Having medical and psychiatric patients subtract by sevens (Serial Seven Test, SST) is frequently used in mental status evaluations as a measure of concentration. It is used in the form standardized by Hayman (1942) as an individual measure and, in modified form, as a portion of structured mental status examinations such as the Mini Mental State Examination. It has also been viewed as a measure of intellectual efficiency and degree of mental impairment, as a measure of complex intellectual activity and frontal lobe function, and as a measure of arithmetic learning and performance. It has also been viewed as possibly unrelated to attentional processes. Validation research on the SST has been limited. The literature to date raises significant concern about the nature of the procedure. The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the nature and validity of the SST. The participants were 80 consecutive outpatient referrals to the neuropsychology consultation service of two large general medical hospitals. All subjects were administered a comprehensive neuropsychological assessment battery, including the Mini Mental State Examination version of the SST. Using multiple regression analysis, a measure of calculation ability emerged as the key predictor of SST performance. Measures of concentration ability were only modestly predictive, and overall level of cognitive dysfunction, demographic variables, and a measure of psychopathology were unrelated to SST performance. The results suggest that SST performance is heavily influenced by basic arithmetic skill and that the procedure should be used with caution as a measure of concentration or other nonacademic mental abilities.

Kohutek, K. J.
Validation of the Matrix Reasoning Subtest of the WAIS-III: A Replication Study.
The purpose of this study was to compare the performance of a clinical population on the Matrix Reasoning Subtest of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Adults-Third Edition (MR) and the Raven’s Progressive Matrices Test (PMT). Besides the face validity between these two instruments, the correlational coefficient between these two measures of abstraction was reported to be .80. A relationship of this magnitude suggests a significant level of construct validity.

Factors which may interfere with the ability to interpret this relationship include: small nonclinical size (N = 28); a statistical error in that the scaled scores of the MR was correlated to the raw scores of the PMT; failure to convert raw scores of the PMT to age normed standardized scores as recommended by the authors.

The sample for this study consisted of 41 subjects referred to an independent practitioner for neuropsychological examination. Referrals were from physicians, State and Federal agencies and employers. Diagnoses included various dementias, closed head injuries, Parkinson’s Disease, hypertension, pervasive developmental disorders and attentional difficulties. The average age was 38.7 with 42% being female. The order of presentation varied with the MR presented first to half of the subjects and the PMT presented first to the second half of the subjects. This rotation was an effort to reduce the practice effect.