Concordance between a Cognitive and a Self-Report Measure of Symptom Exaggeration: Psycho-Assistant and SIMS

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Objective: Assess the concordance between Psycho-Assistant (PA) and the Structured Inventory of Malingered Symptomatology (SIMS) for the assessment of symptom exaggeration. Method: A total of 31 post-MVA compensation-seeking consecutive referrals were evaluated, which was 44% male with an average age of 39.6 years ($SD = 15.3$) and 13.8 years of education ($SD = 2.2$). Linear regression models with backwards elimination to minimize suppressor effects were used to compare various PA and SIMS variables. Results: A model predicting SIMS total score ($R = .65; F(3, 27) = 6.62, p = 0.002$) was associated with slower PA performance times and lower scores on its third subtest (retesting with distorted images accompanied by random feedback) and accounted for 36% of adjusted variance. Another model predicting the number of PA subtest cutoffs failed (0–3) was also highly significant ($R = .62; F = 5.63, p = 0.004$) with the final model including SIMS subtests predictors Neuro-Impairment ($p = .004$), Low Intelligence ($p = .04$) and Affective Disorders ($p = .07$). Conclusion(s): Most self-report measures have low concordance with cognitive symptom validity tests (SVTs). These results suggest some utility for the self-reported SIMS relative to PA. However it is noteworthy that SIMS scales for Psychosis and Amnestic Disorder were unrelated to PA performance. Given the excellent cross-validation of PA with TOMM, CARB and the WMT, these results support utility of the SIMS as a screen for CSV concerns.