P01-417

VALIDATION OF THE HAYLING SENTENCE COMPLETION TEST - GERMAN VERSION & STROOP-TEST

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The Hayling Sentence Competion Test (HSCT) consists of two sections and measures response initiation and inhibitory control. In the first section subjects are instructed to produce a single word to complete a sentence and in the response inhibition condition subjects are instructed to produce a contextually unconnected word. Several studies evidence that these abilities, which are associated with frontal lobe dysfunction and dysexecutive symptoms in evereyday life (Burgess & Shallice, 1996b), are impaired in psychiatric patients particularly in patients with schizophenia and major depression (Gohier et al., 2009; Chan et al., 2010; Joshua et al., 2009). The present study aims to examine the adapted German version of the HSCT by Willinger and Diendorfer (2009) upon a non-clinical sample and its relationship to Stroop-Test. The sample was composed of 74 adults (36 women and 38 men) ranging in age from 19 to 66. Reliability analyses of the HSCT yielded a Cronbachs's alpha of 0.45 (response initiation), and 0.92 (response inhibition). Correlation analyses between Stroop Cards 1 and 2 and HSCT initiation condition showed a medium effect (r = 0.378; p = 0.001), further correlation analyses indicated no assocation between Stroop Card 3 and HSCT inhibition condition (r = 0.070; p = 0.560). The high reliability regarding response inhibition seems to be promising. Further investigations considering executive functions such as word fluency are necessary.