

Assessment in Clinical Neuropsychology:  
The Importance of Individual Differences

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Presented at the semi-annual North Carolina Psychological Association  
meeting in Raleigh, NC on March 8, 1985.

While clinical practice of psychology has experienced an unprecedented growth in the past several years, one particular specialty within professional psychology which has received growing attention has been clinical neuropsychology. Indeed over the past five years a new division within the American Psychological Association was founded, several new journals and organizations established, and two independent bodies have initiated a diplomate procedure.

In many respects this growth has not been well chronicled and, thus, it may be difficult for the general practitioner to obtain information within the field. One particular area which has been largely ignored but which plays an important role in the assessment of brain dysfunction is how specific variables influence neuropsychological assessment. In order to obtain more detailed information, we completed an exhaustive literature review which included several computer searches, review of reference lists of all major neuropsychological texts published to date, a review (from their inception to present) of Psychological Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, the Index Medicus as well as careful review of articles published over the last two years.

The review focused on three major issues; authors, journals, and years of publication. With regards to authors, an average of three authors contributed to each of the 1200 publications reviewed. Several authors were included in more than one article, making the total number of authors approximately 1,100. The most frequent contributors included H. Butter, C. J. Golden, C. G. Matthews, J. Moses, O. A. Parsons, and R. M. Zeitan. The first of these articles was published in 1925 with an average of about two

articles being published each year until 1960. From 1960 until 1975 a rise in the number of publications was noted with an average of 28 articles per year. However, in 1975 this growth increased significantly when between 1975 and present, an average of 66 articles per year were published. These articles were found in a wide variety of journals, 161 different journals to be exact. The journals which carried the most articles included: American Journal of Psychiatry, Clinical Neuropsychology/International Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology, Cortex, International Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology, Journal of Clinical Psychology, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychologia and Perceptual and Motor Skills.

THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT: A REVIEW OF PUBLICATION PATTERNS. Erin Butler, Angela Valenti, and Antonio E. Puente, Department of Psychology, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC 28403-3297.

While the clinical practice of psychology has experienced an unprecedented growth in the past several years, one particular specialty within professional psychology which has received growing attention has been clinical neuropsychology. An important aspect that plays a role in the assessment of brain dysfunction is how specific variables influence neuropsychological assessment. To obtain more information concerning these variables, an extensive literature review was completed.

This review consisted of three separate searches, review of reference lists of all major neuropsychological texts published to date, a review (from their inception to present) of Psychological Abstracts, Biological Abstracts, and the Index Medicus, as well as an exhaustive review of articles found in a wide variety of journals over the last two years. In order to obtain better understanding of these variables and of publication patterns in the field. The review focused on three major issues; authors, journals and years of publication.

With regard to authors, an average of three authors contributed to each of the 1200 publications reviewed. Several authors were included in more than one article, making the total number of authors approximately 1,100. The most frequent contributors included N. Butters, C. J. Golden, C. G. Matthews, J. Moses, O. A. Parsons and R. M. Reitan. The first of these articles was published in 1925 with an average of about two articles being published each year until 1960. From 1960 until 1975 a rise in the number of publications was noted with an average of 28 articles per year. However, in 1975 this growth increased significantly when between 1975 and present, an average of 66 articles per year were published. These articles were found in 161 different journals including: Journal of Psychiatry, Clinical Neuropsychology/International Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology, Cortex, International Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology, Journal of Clinical Psychology, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychologia and Perceptual and Motor Skills; (which carried the most articles.)