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Preliminary normative data for the hooper visual organization test for a South African sample

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ABSTRACT

The Hooper Visual Organization Test (HVOT) is an instrument designed to measure an individual's ability to organize visual stimuli and assess visual-spatial abilities and synthesis. The current investigation aimed to explore the psychometric properties of the HVOT and develop normative data for South Africans who do not speak English as a first language and who received primary and secondary public education. The research design was cross-sectional and the HVOT was administered to healthy adults (n=111) and a clinical group (n=17) whose age range between 19-70 years and had an education of between 6-22 years. The clinical group was made up Huntington's Disease patients. The reliability analysis of the 30-item scale indicated good levels of internal consistency and reliability (McDonalds ω_t of .90). Item difficulty analyses indicated a potential cultural bias in the South African population. Pearson's correlation coefficient showed a significant positive association ($p<0.005$) between HVOT total score and gender and years of education. Additionally, a significant negative association ($p<0.005$) was observed between HVOT total score and age. There were significant, positive correlations between the HVOT total scores and different subtests of the Montreal Cognitive Assessment. The clinical group performed worse than the control group when mean total HVOT scores were compared. Preliminary norms stratified by age, gender and years of education were presented. Future studies should include larger sample sizes and additional research on the influence of gender on the total HVOT score is needed.