

THE RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF SOME HANDEDNESS QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS

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Questionnaires have been extensively used in identifying lateral dominance. However, there has been no confirmatory studies done to validate the items in these questionnaires. Therefore, it is intended to study the validity of 16 test items, which are simple asymmetrical exercises performed in daily life, and included in our handedness questionnaire.

The subjects were male ($n=70$) and female ($n=60$) medical students aged 20-25 years, and their true handedness have been determined by a previously described method (vide 1979 SLAAS Sessions). After responding to the questionnaire, each questionnaire item also has been performed by the same subject. The same questionnaire was administered to the same subjects after three months.

More than 20% of the true right handers amongst the male and female subjects responded as left handers for questionnaire item number 10 (viz; with which hand you hold a box of matches when striking it with a match, 13 (viz; with which hand you hold a needle when guiding a thread through its eye) and 16 (viz: which hand do you insert first in wearing a shirt or blouse). However, this discrepancy was not shown when the same subjects actually performed the items 10 and 13. More than 60% discrepancy was found between the true handedness and the test performance of item 16 in this group.

In conclusion the items to be taken into consideration in assessing handedness can be divided broadly into 3 categories.

- A. Items which give the same responses for the questionnaire as well as performance test.
- B. Items which do not show consistency for questionnaire responses and performance tests.
- C. Items which give consistent response when the questionnaire is repeated.