

ASSESSMENT OF SIGHTING DOMINANCE IN RIGHT AND LEFT HANDERS

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One eye is dominant over the other, in sighting, sensory perception or acuity. Sighting dominance is measured by conscious and unconscious sighting tasks. Since, conscious sighting measures can be contaminated by handedness, unconscious measures are preferred for assessing sighting dominance, and unconscious near-far alignment has been used for that purpose (Porac & Coren, 1976).

The subjects, in this study, were 28 males and 52 females, aged 20 - 25 years. Sighting dominance was assessed using a near-far alignment task. While the subjects fixed both eyes at the far object, the near object, when placed in the centre, gave two images, the image of the right eye being on the left and vice versa. The subjects unconsciously aligned one image with the far object. The chosen image belonged to the dominant eye. When the near object was placed on the non-dominant side, some used the image of the non-dominant eye for alignment, thus, demonstrating a weaker dominance, while the others continued to use the dominant eye and demonstrated a stronger dominance. Handedness was assessed by a previously described method (Dharmarajan & Jiffry, 1979)

Eighty percent of the right handers and 66% of the left handers showed right eye dominance. This difference was not statistically significant.

There appears to be no correlation between handedness and sighting dominance. The phenomena of strong and weak sighting dominance were recognised.

References:

1. Porac C., and Coren, S. (1976). The Dominant Eye. *Psychological Bulletin*, **83**, (5) 880 – 897.
2. Dharmarajan, A. M., and Jiffry, M. T. M. (1979). Assessment of Handedness. *Proc. Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science*. **35**, 15.