

Examination of the MMPI-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) Validity Scales in Civil Forensic Settings: Findings from Simulation and Known Group Samples

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Abstract

The current study examined the effectiveness of the MMPI-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF; Ben-Porath and Tellegen, 2008) over-reporting indicators in civil forensic settings. The MMPI-2-RF includes three revised MMPI-2 over-reporting validity scales and a new scale to detect over-reported somatic complaints. Participants dissimulated medical and neuropsychological complaints in two simulation samples, and a known-groups sample used symptom validity tests as a response bias criterion. Results indicated large effect sizes for the MMPI-2-RF validity scales, including a Cohen's *d* of .90 for Fs in a head injury simulation sample, 2.31 for FBS-r, 2.01 for F-r, and 1.97 for Fs in a medical simulation sample, and 1.45 for FBS-r and 1.30 for F-r in identifying poor effort on SVTs. Classification results indicated good sensitivity and specificity for the scales across the samples. This study indicates that the MMPI-2-RF over-reporting validity scales are effective at detecting symptom over-reporting in civil forensic settings.

Keywords: MMPI-2-RF; MMPI-2 Restructured Form; Malingering; Forensic evaluation; Medico-legal

Introduction

Civil litigation is often highly conflictual, and the potential for large financial awards presents claimants with an incentive to exaggerate or fabricate symptoms. Likewise, insurance companies and defendants who are potentially liable for providing financial compensation for damages have incentives to identify response bias in plaintiffs as grounds for withholding financial awards. Psychological tests are often used in medico-legal evaluations to provide an objective measure of psychological adjustment (Archer, Stredny, & Zoby, 2006). Tests with embedded validity indicators are particularly useful in such evaluations, where examiners may be challenged to defend their interpretation of psychological test results and to detect non-credible symptom reporting.

The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF; Ben-Porath & Tellegen, 2008) is a 338-item version of the test designed to represent the clinically significant substance of the MMPI-2 item pool with a comprehensive set of psychometrically efficient measures. The MMPI-2 Restructured Clinical (RC) scales (Tellegen et al., 2003)

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