INITIAL VALIDATION OF THE BEHAVIORAL DYSCONTROL SCALE— ELECTRONIC VERSION: AN EXECUTIVE DYSFUNCTION MEASURE

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We are determining the utility of the Behavioral Dyscontrol Scale—Electronic Version (BDS-EV) as an addition to executive dysfunction measures, which are afflicted by poor specificity and sensitivity. The study included group administration to 97 college students; and individual administration to 10 college students. The group administration participants were administered the BDS-EV in groups of 1 to 5, without personalized instruction. The individual administration participants were administered the BDS-EV, with personalized instruction. No significant differences were found between group and individual administration, though the mean values tended to be poorer for group administration. Because no significant differences were found between administration types, the data from all college students were combined for additional analyses. In the combined sample, 21.5% reported they had, at some point in their life, suffered a blow to the head causing loss of consciousness. We compared the head trauma group to the remaining college participants. The head trauma group made more errors on the Stroop task portion of the BDS-EV. This result provides initial evidence that the BDS-EV might prove more sensitive to the effects of a mild TBI.