

Clinical Utility of Multiphasic Questionnaire (MPQ)

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Abstract

The study examines the utility of a revised version of four clinical scales of the Multiphasic Questionnaire on a sample of 60 psychiatric patients and 100 normal subjects. The analysis of results revealed that some items on the clinical scales significantly differentiated normals and the clinical groups. The cut off points for these clinical scales were established.

Key words -

**Multiphasic questionnaire,
Clinical scales,
Cut off scores and reliability**

The Multiphasic Questionnaire is used to differentiate different clinical conditions. The present work seeks to clarify certain issues with regard to Multiphasic Questionnaire. The validity of the scale was established in early 1970's and it was felt necessary to examine whether adding new items to the clinical scale would increase its utility in differentiating the clinical groups from normals.

Objectives

1. To examine the utility of the tool in the clinical population.
2. To establish cut off points for the revised clinical scales.

Sample

Patients whose casefile data qualified for a diagnosis of schizophrenia, mania, depression and hysteria by I.C.D. - 9 criteria were selected. Fifteen patients in each group were matched for age and education with a group of 100 normals. Age ranged from 25 to 32 years and education ranged from 6 to 14 years. Education showed significant differences between the groups.

Description of the tool

The description of original MPQ details are provided in the article by Murthy [1]. A set of eighty three new items was selected from the text books, casefiles and other tools that tapped clinical symptoms. Expert opinion was taken in deciding the inclusion of items. The direction of scoring was indicated for the new items. For the schizophrenia scale [2], [3], [4] seventeen items were added. Twenty-three items were added to the mania scale [5]. Twenty-four new items were added to the depression scale [6], [7], [8]. On the hysteria scale [9], [10] nineteen new items were included. The MPQ was individually administered to all the subjects. The new items were scored using the key prepared by the investigators.

Results and Discussion

From the above exploratory study it is evident that some old and new items of the MPQ scale significantly differentiate the different clinical groups from the normals. (All the items which emerged significantly differentiating on the new MPQ scale are presented along with the direction of scoring in Appendix A).

Table I shows the means and S.D's which differentiate each of the clinical groups from the normals at 0.001 level. The above scale appears to provide a clinically useful tool in determining the nature of the loading on each of the clinically identifiable syndromes. An attempt was made to establish the cut off score as per the procedure given by Murthy [1]. Based on this criteria, nineteen items emerged out to be significantly differentiating on the mania scale and the tentative cut off score is 11 and above. On the schizophrenia scale, thirteen items emerged out to be significantly differentiating and the cut off score is 6 and above. Twenty items significantly differentiated depressives and normals. The cut off score was found to be sixteen and above. On the hysteria scale, ten items significantly differentiated normals and the clinical group. The cut off score was found to be 9 and above. Tentative test-retest reliability coefficient was calculated for a sample of 30 normals taken from the original sample of 100 subjects. The age range of the respondents ranged from 25 to 32 years and education ranged from 6 to 14 years. The interval between test-retest administration was above six months duration. Table II shows that the reliability coefficients for the test-retest reliability is moderately high. The findings of the present study may prove to be useful in future in identifying different clinical conditions with a modified form. The tool is able to give consistent information.

Table I - Mean scores on the MPQ of the normal and the different clinical groups

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Table I - Test-retest reliability coefficients of the new MPQ scale

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Limitations of the present study

1. Since a small sample was taken in the present exploratory study the above results cannot be generalised. It is suggested that it should be replicated on a larger sample.
2. Retest reliability could not be done with the psychiatric sample because of their changing clinical status.

Appendix A

Mania Scale

- T 6 I would like to be a nurse
- T 35 I would rather enjoy the present than plan for a future.
- T 61 A priest or a religious man can cure disease by putting his hand on your head.
- T 86 I like to cook
- T137 I feel that I am an important person
- T138 At times I have a strong urge to do some-thing harmful
- T139 At times my thoughts have raced faster than I could speak them.
- T142 My speech is rapid and difficult to interrupt.
- T147 I feel police and security officers are following me.
- T148 Most of the time I feel some one is watching me.
- T149 Recently I have started showing excessive interest in the opposite sex.
- T150 I would like to work continuously without a break in between.
- T151 I believe women ought to have as much sexual freedom as men.
- T152 Some of my family members are hostile-towards me.
- T154 At times I become aggressive without any reason.
- T156 Sometimes I feel that I am endowed with special powers to carryout different missions.
- T157 There has been recent episodes of anger and annoyance on others.
- T158 I frequently day dream of becoming an important person.
- T159 The amount of speech produced by me is greater than that considered normal.

Schizophrenia Scale

- T 18 I do not like to study about things that I am working at.
- T 55 There is very little love and companionship in my family.
- T 61 A priest or a religious man can cure disease by putting his hand on your head.
- T 81 Sometimes I feel that I must injure myself or someone else.
- T 87 Someone has control over my mind.
- T 88 Bad words come to my mind and I can't get rid of them.
- T 120 I hear voices, noises or other sounds that no one else hears.
- T 121 I hear a voice that makes a running commentary on my behaviour.
- T122 Some times I hear two or more voices conversing.
- T128 I feel that my body has diseased or changed.
- T130 I feel that people can read my mind and know my thoughts.
- T134 Most of the time my reply to a question is irrelevant.
- T135 Your pattern of speech in which conclusions are reached, does not follow logic.

Depression Scale

- T 6 I would like to be a nurse.
- T 18 I don't like to study about things that I am working at
- T 20 I often have feelings like burning, tingling or crawling.
- T 23 I brood a great deal
- T 27 I have had more than my share of things to worry about.
- T 30 I have a great deal of stomach trouble.
- T 40 I am usually calm and not easily upset.
- T100 I cannot do anything well.
- T161 I lack confidence in doing things successfully.
- T162 I worry over money and business
- T163 Most of the time I wish I were dead
- T164 I believe I am a condemned person
- T165 Sometimes I experience tightness in my chest hence I won't be able to express myself.
- T166 Often I experience dryness of mouth.
- T167 Even when I am with people I feel lonely most of the time.
- T169 I suffer a great deal of stomach disorders.
- T170 I have difficulty in falling asleep.
- T171 I blame myself for everything bad that happens
- T172 Sometimes I experience crawling sensation in the head.
- T175 I lack concern about my children
- T176 I feel I deserve to be punished
- T177 I have great difficulty in making decisions
- T178 I feel as though I am worthless
- T179 I prefer to sit quiet in a corner
- T180 I feel I am a complete failure as a person
- T181 Sometimes I experience a buzzing noise in my ears
- T182 I have difficulty in concentrating on my task
- T183 I have definite plans about committing suicide

Hysteria Scale

- T 50 I often feel pain in the back of my neck
- T102 I can lead more than one life in my imagination
- T103 I sometimes feel that people have driven me to the point of suicide.
- T105 I am always in a dream like state without remembering afterwards what I have been doing.
- T106 Always I feel that my people are unsympathetic about my symptoms or troubles.
- T108 I have often suffered from blurring of vision or difficulty with sight which no one seems to put it right
- T111 I feel weak all over much of the time.
- T114 I have had no difficulty in keeping my balance in walking.
- T116 I believe that my home life is as pleasant as that of most people I know.
- T119 Many people will use unfair means to gain profit or an advantage rather than to lose it.

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