GOLDBERG'S INDEX TO DIAGNOSE PSYCHOSIS VS NEUROSIS FROM THE MMPI-2

ALFRED L. BROPHY
Behavioral Science Associates, West Chester, PA

Summary.—Comparisons were made of Goldberg's (1965) psychotic index on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) and the MMPI-2. It is recommended that MMPI T scores be used to calculate the MMPI-2 Goldberg index.

Goldberg (1965) developed a linear equation to discriminate neurotic and psychotic profiles on the MMPI. The equation \(L + Pa + Sc - Hy - Pt\) combines \(K\)-corrected \(T\) scores of five scales to yield an index for which values of 45 or greater are usually interpreted as indicative of psychosis. Given differences between the normative groups and \(T\)-score transformations of the MMPI and MMPI-2 (Butcher, Dahlstrom, Graham, Tellegen, & Kaemmer, 1989), there is question whether a Goldberg index calculated from MMPI-2 \(T\) scores is comparable to the original MMPI index.

MMPI and MMPI-2 Goldberg indices were compared for the 19 male codetype profiles of Gilberstadt and Duker (1965). The maximum difference in the MMPI and MMPI-2 indices for those mean profiles was only 6; however, MMPI and MMPI-2 indices for other profiles differed by as much as 40 points for both men and women. Differences of at least 19 points can occur in the region of the usual cutting score.

The MMPI-2 index can be smaller or larger than the MMPI index depending on the configuration of the five scale scores. The situation is complicated by the differential effect that various scales have on the relationship between the MMPI and MMPI-2 indices. Increasing scores on some scales (\(L\) and \(Pa\)) tend to increase the MMPI-2 index relative to the MMPI index; increasing scores on other scales (\(Hy\), \(Pt\) in women and \(Sc\) in men) have the opposite effect.

In conclusion, it is advisable at present to calculate the MMPI-2 Goldberg index from \(T\) scores based on the original MMPI norms. Further research with the MMPI-2 may warrant use of MMPI-2 norms with the index.

REFERENCES


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1Address correspondence to Alfred L. Brophy, Ph.D., Behavioral Science Associates, P.O. Box 748, West Chester, PA 19381.