



The Woodcock-Muñoz Foundation

RESEARCH BRIEF

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

WOODCOCK-JOHNSON TESTS OF COGNITIVE ABILITIES - THIRD EDITION AND UNIVERSAL NONVERBAL INTELLIGENCE TEST IQ SCORES: DOES AUTISM DIAGNOSIS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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The Woodcock-Muñoz Foundation (WMF) is a private non-profit operating foundation that supports the advancement of contemporary cognitive assessment practices. The Doctoral Dissertation Abstract Project is part of the Foundation's efforts to disseminate research findings that bridge the theory-to-practice gap in cognitive assessment.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to add to the existing body of research regarding intellectual assessment of individuals with HFA and AS. There has been little or no research regarding intellectual assessment of individuals with an ASD as measured by the WJ III COG and the UNIT. Specifically, this study will attempt to determine if there are significant differences between overall IQ scores for the WJ III COG (GIA) and the UNIT (Full Scale IQ) for three different diagnostic categories of HFA, AS, and PDD-NOS. In addition comparison of WJ III COG broad abilities or cognitive performance clusters (Verbal Ability, Thinking Ability, and Cognitive Efficiency), and factor cluster scores of seven more narrow abilities including: Comprehension-Knowledge (*Gc*), Long-Term Retrieval (*Gl*), Visual-Spatial Thinking (*Gv*), Auditory Processing (*Ga*), Fluid Reasoning (*Gf*), Processing Speed (*Gs*) and Short-Term Memory (*Gsm*) and four additional scales from the UNIT, including Memory Quotient, Reasoning Quotient, Symbolic Quotient and Nonsymbolic Quotient, will be compared between the three diagnostic groups to determine if there are different profiles for each of these groups.

All hypotheses proposed prior to the completion of the study were not supported by the results of this study. There were no significant differences noted on any measure of the WJ III COG or the UNIT between HFA and AS children and adolescents. Implications for future research and practice are discussed.

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