

Do Objective and Subjective Measures of Financial Capacity Measure the Same Construct in People with Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?



Sunderaraman, P., M.S.^a, Haggerty, K., Ph.D.^b, Lindgren, K., Ph.D. ^b

^aDepartment of Psychology, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA . ^b Bancroft Brain Injury Services, Cherry Hill, NJ

Introduction

- Chronic traumatic brain injury results in impairments in financial capacity. Financial capacity is the ability to handle one's money efficiently.
- Clinically, these factors have important implications related to decisions about guardianship or transitioning to independent living
- Different tools may be measuring different facets of financial capacity. For instance, financial capacity may include measuring calculation, problem solving, executive functioning, or functional money management.

Objective

Given that both subjective and objective indices are used in the clinical decision making process, it is important to understand the nature of association that exists between these two indices of financial capacity after moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Participant Demographics n=37 Mean (SD) Age (in yrs) 45.19(10.41) Education (in yrs) 12.61 (1.64) Years Since Injury 14.69 (10.16) Sex (%) Females (30%)

Measures Used

• Subjective Measure: Managing Money and Finances domain from MPAI-4

• Objective Measure: Money and Calculation domain from TFLS



WRAT-4 Math computation

MPAI-4's Novel Problem Solving item

Difference score - Trails A and B

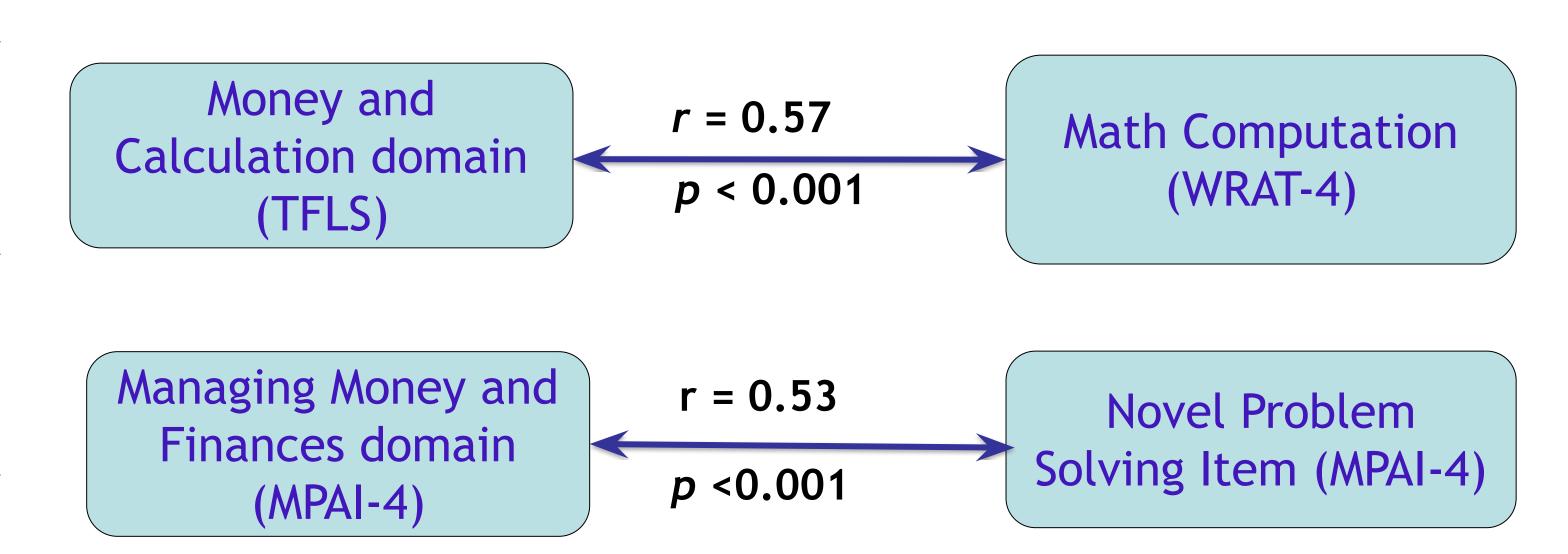


Results

Means and standard deviations

2.92 (1.12) Managing Money and Finances domain Range: 0-4; higher score worse (MPAI-4)5.05 (2.07) Money and Calculation domain Range: 0-8; higher score better (TFLS) 76.03 (12.87 Math Computation (WRAT-4) Range: 50-150; higher score better Novel Problem Solving 3.46 (0.73) Item (MPAI-4) Range: 0-4; higher score worse 92.00 (84.83) Trails A (sec) Lower scores Trails B (sec) 157.52 (85.62) are better Difference score b/w 90.33 (76.79) Trails A & B (secs)

Pearson's correlations revealed no significant relationship between TFLS's Money and Calculation domain and MPAI-4's Managing Money and Finances item (r = -0.17, p = 0.32)



Note: No association between Trail Making Tests' difference score and the money management domains/items was found

Conclusions



- The subjective and objective measures of financial capacity measure different aspects of financial capacity.
- In a rehabilitation setting, clinical decision makers should take care to avoid basing decisions based on any single measure of financial capacity.
- Future studies should explore the factor structure of different measures assessing financial capacity.