COMPARISON OF THE MMPI-2 RESTRUCTURED DEMORALIZATION SCALE, DEPRESSION SCALE, AND MALINGERED MOOD DISORDER SCALE IN IDENTIFYING NON-CREDIBLE SYMPTOM REPORTING IN PERSONAL INJURY LITIGANTS AND DISABILITY CLAIMANTS

George K. Henry1, Robert L. Heilbronner2, Wiley Mittenberg3, Craig Enders4, and Kristen Domboski

1Los Angeles Neuropsychology Group, Los Angeles, CA, 2Chicago Neuropsychology Group, Forensic Neuropsychology Institute, Chicago, IL, 3Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and 4Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA

A known groups design compared the ability of the 24-item MMPI-2 Restructured Clinical Demoralization Scale (RCd), the 57-item Depression Scale (Scale 2), and the 15-item Malingered Mood Disorder Scale (MMDS) to identify non-credible symptom response sets in 84 personal injury litigants and disability claimants compared to 77 non-litigating head-injured controls. All three scales showed large effect sizes (>0.80). Scale 2 was associated with the largest effect size (2.19), followed by the MMDS (1.65), and the RCd (0.85). Logistic regression analyses revealed that a cutscore of ≥28 on the 57-item Scale 2 was associated with high specificity (96.1%) and sensitivity (76.2%), while a cutscore of ≥16 on the 24-item RCd was less accurate (87% specificity and 50% sensitivity). Cutscores for the MMDS were not calculated as they were reported in a previous study. Results indicated that like the 15-item MMDS, the 57-item MMPI-2 Scale 2 may provide another empirically derived index with known error rates upon which examiners may rely to investigate hypotheses relative to exaggeration of illness-related behavior and impression management in forensic contexts involving PI litigants and disability claimants.

Keywords: Demoralization Scale; Depression Scale; Restructured Clinical Scales; Malingered Mood Disorder Scale.

INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) is the most frequently used psychological instrument in the United States for individuals undergoing psychological and neuropsychological assessment. Meta-analyses of the MMPI-2 (Rogers, Sewell, & Salekin, 1994; Rogers, Sewell, Martin, & Vitacco, 2003) have demonstrated its efficacy within the forensic context. It has been especially useful in the forensic context where identification of symptom exaggeration or...