

Validity of Two Functional Tests In Assessing Hand Function On Healthy Subjects

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The Valpar Upper Extremity Range of Motion Work Sample evaluates an individual's ability to reach into 1-foot-square box and manipulate small and large nuts onto bolts. The Purdue Pegboard Test was designed in 1948 to test the dexterity needed for potential employees to perform jobs, such as assembly work, packing or machine operation. The purpose of our study was to determine the validity of the functional tests in differentiating between jobs and healthy subjects.

One hundred fifty subjects with no history of hand injury or disease were assessed. In male subjects, no significant differences were found between different jobs, age, sex, dominant hand and work duration on both tests ($p > 0.05$). Correlation between the Purdue subtests and Valpar subtests were moderate to high ($p < 0.01$). Correlations between the 3 subtests of Valpar in males and females were found ($p < 0.05$). For both tests norms for employed healthy subjects are available to assess on individual's speed of coordination in comparison with a large random sample of healthy subjects male and female subjects. Further studies are needed to examine the correlation between ROM and pinch grip to performance on the Purdue and Valpar subtests.