

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TEST PERFORMANCE OF SPANISH SPEAKERS: IS
PERFORMANCE SIMILAR ACROSS DIFFERENT SPANISH SPEAKING
SUBGROUPS?

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ABSTRACT

The present study compared different subgroups of Spanish speakers in their performance on neuropsychological tasks. In order to address the issue of potential cultural differences, different Spanish speaking subgroups from three different countries were compared on five neuropsychological tests. The sample was composed of 120 young adults with a mean of 23.4 years of age from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Chile. Participants were administered the following instruments: Verbal Serial Learning Curve, Verbal Fluency Test- Semantic and Phonetic, Stroop- Color and Word Test, and Trail Making Test (TMT)- Parts A and B. The results revealed group differences in two of the five neuropsychological tests. Group differences were found in the number of words recalled in the first trial and the number of trials required to recall the ten words of the Serial Learning Curve and in the number of words produced in the semantic and the phonetic category of the Verbal Fluency Test. The findings are discussed in terms of within ethnic group differences and the potential impact on developing a neuropsychology that is sensitive to cultural influences.

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