

Script

Imitation of meaningless and meaningful gestures

Background

Imitations of movements are of high relevance for training of motor abilities in **occupational and physical therapy**.

Items

- **10 items** plus one practice item respectively for each subtest

Materials

- Evaluation sheet and pen

Instructions for the therapist

- patient should imitate the gestures with his **ipsilesional** hand (left hand for left brain damage) → therapist demonstrates the gestures **mirror-inverted** (therapist's right hand if patient is left brain damaged)
- **gesture is held** the entire time by the therapist while the patient is trying to imitate
- if incorrect, then the patient is **requested to correct the gesture once** (see below), if the gesture is still wrong the therapist continues with the next gesture
- between the gestures the patient is asked to put his **hand flat on the table**

Instructions for the patient

“Please imitate the following gestures with your left / right hand. I will show you the gestures with my right / left hand, so that it is a mirror-inverted image. Pay attention to the position of my hand and the relation of my hand to the body. If you have found the correct position, please hold it. We will start with one practice item. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask them.”

- if the first imitation is not correct: **“Unfortunately this was not quite correct. Please look closely and try once more.”**
- if the patient asks why this diagnostic test is done with him: **“The imitation of gestures is very important for your occupational and physical therapy. There, the therapists often show you movements, which you should imitate.”**

Evaluation and interpretation

- **First Correct** (2 Points) = 1st imitation is immediately correct, fluent searching movements are allowed
- **Second Correct** (1 Point) = gesture was corrected successfully
- **Total Error** (0 Points) = gesture is not imitated correctly neither in the 1st nor 2nd attempt
- **Maximum number of points:** 20 points for each subtest
- **Interpretation recommendation:** “The patient showed severe/ moderate/ mild/ no difficulties when imitating meaningless/ meaningful gestures.”

Additional interpretation recommendations

- **Imitation of meaningful gestures good – meaningless gestures bad:** “When imitating gestures the patient can use a known repertoire of stored emblems but is not able to imitate unknown gestures.”
- **Imitation of meaningless gestures good – meaningful gestures bad:** “The patient can imitate simple hand configurations but is not able to fall back on stored gestures.”
- **Imitation of meaningful and meaningless gestures bad:** “The patient is not able to imitate, neither the imitation of meaningless nor meaningful hand positions succeeds.”

correct imitation and error examples

see Manual pages 10 - 17