The Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration, 5th Edition (Beery VMI/5)

Publisher/Date:
- Pearson Assessments, Inc., 19500 Bulverde Road, San Antonio, TX 78259. Published, 2004.

Purpose:
- Group- or individually-administered, norm-referenced test/screener designed to assess visual-motor integration (pencil-and-paper, eye-hand coordination) for individuals ages 2-00 through 18-11 years.

Provides:
- Scores are available for the degree to which visual-motor skills are integrated (VMI), as well as optionally-administered, independent measures of Visual Perception and Motor Coordination. The test is designed to identify individuals with delays in visual-motor skills and to provide remedial guidance and specific activities.

Standardization Issues:
- The current edition’s 2003 normative sample included 2,512 children and matched demographically to 2000 US Census data by gender, ethnicity, community-size, geographic region, and parental education/SES. The normative sample was fairly evenly-distributed across the test’s range.

Reliability and Validity Issues:
- Internal reliability estimates were good with the test (mid-.70’s/high-.80’s); mean correlations for the VMI and Motor Coordination tests were .82, and the Visual Perception test yielded a .81. Test-retest reliabilities were good as well (mid-to-high .80’s). Because of some “subjectivity” in rating (scoring) responses, interrater reliabilities have varied somewhat in the history of the test. The current edition reports strong interrater reliabilities (VMI, .92; Visual Perception, .91; Motor Coordination, .90). Validity evidence reported may be somewhat less solid and compelling as the reliability data. No validity data is reportedly provided for the supplementary tests (Visual Perception, Motor Coordination). Few studies are cited supporting the test’s predictive validity, with the majority of those being 10-20+ years old. Median concurrent validity correlations with other tests was modest but acceptable: Wide Range Assessment of Visual Motor Abilities (.52), WISC-R (.66), Bender-Gestalt and previous forms of the VMI (.56)
**Additional Points:**

- “Beery VMI/6” is slated for publication through Pearson Assessments in mid-2010. In addition to new (updated) norms, the test will include more information about usage by Occupational Therapists as well updated medical/neuropsychological literature.
- In addition to the assessment of integrated Visual-Motor development and the separate Visual Perception- and Motor Coordination-tests, the Beery VMI/5 system includes Developmental Teaching Activities booklet, Book of Letters and Numbers (academic exercises for late-Kindergarten), Book of Shapes (geometric pencil-and-paper activities), a developmental wall chart of “developmental stepping-stones” for birth-6, and a parent developmental checklist.
- There is a Short Format (ages 2-8), and a Full Format, covering the full age-range of the test (children ages 2-18 and adults to age 100).
- New adult norms were developed to assist in adult/geriatric assessment of neurological problems. The Fifth Edition was expanded downward as well, to include 2-year-olds.
- Since the original Beery’s publication (1967), the test has undergone several revisions (1982, 1989, 1997, and 2004). In this time span, the test’s been normed with over 11,000 children and throughout the normative studies there have been no apparent changes in the mean raw scores for children ages 3-18. The scoring system was revised with the Fourth Edition, but correlations between editions using the “old” scoring instructions and the “new” format remained extremely high (.99).
- Numerals and alphabetic stimulus/item shapes were purposely-omitted to reduce possible sources of bias.
- More convincing evidence to support the effectiveness of the developmental teaching materials may be lacking.