

SHOULD MOTOR COORDINATION TESTS REQUIRE THE USE OF BOTH BODY SIDES' LIMBS OR ONLY THE PREFERRED ONE?

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Objective: To reflect on the rationale of requesting the performance of the members of both sides of the body (left and right limbs) in motor tests for coordination determination. Method: We analyzed Movement Assessment Battery for Children-Second Edition (MABC-2) and Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency-Second Edition (BOT-2) to identify if they would request the referred use. Results: MABC-2 requires subjects to perform some of the tests with left and right limbs, independently. The global score results from their combination and not from the best side performance only. Furthermore, this request does not appear equally in all MABC-2 tasks. For instance, subjects shall draw a trail with their preferred hand (only) but must place pegs and insert coins with both (one at a time) hands and stand or hop (depending on their age range) on right and left feet, one at a time. Oppositely, on BOT-2, dribbling a ball with alternate hands seems to be the only test where both limbs are required to execute the same function. However, unlike MABC-2, this happens in one composite task, not on independent limb performance. Some BOT-2 tasks also require bilateral simultaneous coordination. Implications: From a motor developmental and “philosophical” perspective, and taking in mind the process of lateralization, we discuss the need or even the validity of requiring two body-sides performance on coordination determination.