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Article Overview:

This article is a systematic review evaluating the current understanding of visual motor integration (VMI) scores of children with developmental disabilities. 24 articles were selected for review. Four themes emerged from the selected articles: age, gender and diagnosis.

Key take home messages:

1. Age shown to impact VMI scores → therefore it is important for clinicians to take note of the impact of age on VMI. This emphasises the need to consider age-based norms when assessing VMI skills.
2. Gender may have an impact on VMI scores too, e.g. some studies found that males would have higher risk of VMI deficits. However, the literature is inconsistent and definitive conclusions cannot be drawn yet.
3. Diagnosis seems to impact VMI skills. Specifically autism spectrum disorder, brachial plexus injury and cerebral palsy are associated with VMI deficits.
4. Standardised assessments, such as the Berry VMI (which uses age-based norms) are recommended.
5. Improvement of VMI can lead to positive changes in occupational performance and assessments exploring this should be included during evaluation.