Assessing an individual’s cognitive capacity has become an increasingly large part of caring for the elderly. Cognitive capacity assessments are used to determine the level of care an individual requires and they have legal implications for things such as property care and decision making. These assessments are also used to follow an individual’s cognitive health over long periods of time. The current widely used tests are the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) and the Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE). The MoCA and the MMSE are paper-pencil tests administered by a trained individual.

STUFF ABOUT MoCA AND MMSE HERE – history, why they’re used, evidence they’re useful, how they’re different from each other

One of the issues with these tests is how the cutoff scores were defined. These arbitrary cutoffs result in ambiguity in how to interpret scores that fall near the cutoffs. Recently, a computerized battery of tests was used to better differentiate the scores of individuals who fall in the grey area around the cutoff point (BRENKEL PAPER). STATS FROM THAT PAPER HERE.

Computerized test batteries have the advantage….

We were interested to see which subset of the computerized test battery tasks predicted MoCA and MMSE scores.