

# Convergent, Discriminant, and Predictive Validity of a Scale to Detect Symptom Exaggeration

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## INTRODUCTION:

- People with high levels of pathological personality characteristics are at high risk of distorting their responses on tests of their psychological functioning.
- Recent research on pathological personality trait assessment has thus focused on indices of test-takers' response validity.
- One such index is the Infrequency scale (INF) of the *Computerized Adaptive Test of Personality Disorder* (CAT-PD), a well validated test of pathological traits.
- The CAT-PD-INF measures extreme and bizarre responses to personality items that may reflect response exaggeration.
- However, it has not yet been validated.
- In this study we examine how the CAT-PD-INF compares with the validity scales from another established test of pathological personality.

## METHOD

- Participants were 363 workers on Amazon's MTurk.
- We compared the CAT-PD-INF to select validity scales from the *Schedule for Nonadaptive and Adaptive Personality-2* (SNAP-2): Deviance (DEV), Rare Virtues (RV) and Variable Response Inconsistency (VRIN).

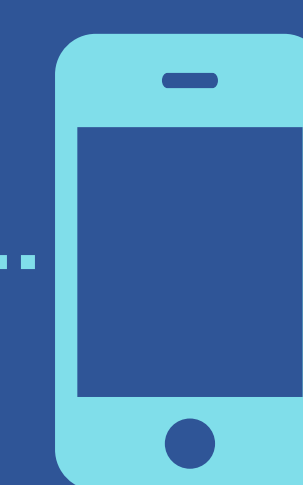
## RESULTS

- CAT-PD-INF correlated higher with SNAP-2-DEV than with either SNAP-2-RV or SNAP-2-VRIN ( $t \geq 9.67$ ).
- ROC analysis suggested a cut score of 23 on CAT-PD-INF discriminated between deviant and non-deviant responses.

## DISCUSSION

- These findings suggest the convergent, discriminant, and predictive validity of the CAT-PD-INF scale.
- This study provides preliminary evidence for the CAT-PD-INF as a predictor of response exaggeration.
- Future research can extend these findings by examining the predictive validity of the CAT-PD-INF with respect to a sample in which respondents deliberately feign their answers to questions.

# Evidence for a symptom exaggeration scale on a measure of pathological personality traits



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Table 1. Correlations Between Study Variables

	1	2	3	4
1. CAT-PD-INF	(.96)			
2. SNAP-2-DEV	.70*	(.76)		
3. SNAP-2-RV	.14*	.10	(.63)	
4. SNAP-2-VRIN	.11*	.20*	.04	(.92)

Note: \* indicates  $r$  is statistically significant at  $p < .05$ . Cronbach's  $\alpha$  on diagonal. CAT-PD-INF = Infrequency; DEV = Deviance; RV = Rare Virtues; VRIN = Variable Response Inconsistency.

Table 2. Sensitivity and specificity for potential CAT-PD-INF cut scores

Cut score	SN	SP
21	.88	.79
22	.88	.82
23	.86	.84
24	.84	.86
25	.82	.88

Note. SN = sensitivity; SP = specificity

Figure 1. ROC Curve of CAT-PD-INF Predicting SNAP-2-DEV Cut Score

