

Measuring the tactual skills by Multiple Disabled and severe Visually Impaired persons with the MDVI - Tactual Profile (MDVI-TP)

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Introduction / rationale: Tactual Profile (TP) is an instrument to assess tactual functioning in children, with a severe visual impairment. The instrument has been outlined as a 'structured observation'.

Objectives: There was a strong request from persons who use TP to develop a special version for Multiple Disabled and Visual Impaired persons. But this one had to be less verbal and adjusted also for use with MDVI adults.

Method or approach: The project group consisted of different MDVI professionals, who created the first item-set (based on TP, experience and relevant literature). There were pilot studies with a group of 12 persons. The results were evaluated with a expertgroup.

Results or practice implications: There are several differences between the regular TP and the MDVI version. An interview will take place with someone who knows the MDVI person well. The mental developmental level will be determined. Alerting Signals must be considered. The Item-set has the same main categories as in the original Tactual Profile. A overview of influencing Factors is used. A special set of materials was composed.

Conclusion: MDVI-TP can be used for assessments with MDVI persons with a severe visual impairment. The results of the MDVI-TP will be the starting point for stimulation and training of tactual functioning. The project group would like to write an addition for MDVI to the activity book for TP to stimulate and train tactual functioning.