

Hartman, M., Nielsen, C., & Stratton, B. (2004). The contributions of attention and working memory to age differences in concept identification. Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology, 26, 227-245.

The contributions of attention and working memory to adult age differences in concept identification were examined in two experiments using the standard version of the California Card Sorting Test plus two modified versions. Older adults demonstrated global reductions in their ability to identify concepts whether sorting stimuli, identifying concepts used by the examiner, or generating concepts from cues. Although age differences in selective attention and interference control did not contribute to these deficits, reduced working memory accounted for the age-related increase in perseverative errors. Our conclusions focus on whether impairments in working memory might fully account for age differences in concept identification.