

Hartman, M., & *Potter, G. (1998). Sources of age differences on the Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Test. The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 12, 513-524.

The contributions of visuo-spatial abilities, organization, and memory to adult age differences on the Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Test (CFT) were evaluated by means of the Boston Qualitative Scoring System (BQSS), the standard 36-point system, and an extension of the standard system. It was hypothesized that age differences in CFT-Recall are in part due to poor visuo-spatial abilities. The second hypothesized non-mnemonic explanation for the poor performance of older adults on CFT-Recall is poor organization of the drawing. 30 younger (aged 18-32 yrs) and 30 older (aged 60-81 yrs) adults were compared. Age deficits in copying were due to minor inaccuracies of drawing, but not to poor organization. In the recall condition, robust declines were primarily the result of omission of elements rather than visuo-spatial distortions or poor organization. Comparisons of results based on the BQSS and the extended 36-point scoring system provide evidence for advantages and disadvantages of each.