

# The Relationship between Attentional Function measured by M-EAT and Subjective Attentional Experiences in the Healthy Elderly

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The purpose of this study is to clarify the features of the attentional function of healthy elderly people who do not have dementia via a comparison with young people, along with clarifying the relationship between the subjective attentional experiences and attentional function of the healthy elderly.

This study involved the participation of 50 elderly people registered at silver human resource centers in Japan and 50 young people. The elderly people underwent M-EAT (Modify Error Awareness Task) and the Everyday Attentional Experiences Questionnaire (EAEQ). The young people underwent only M-EAT.

M-EAT is a “Go/No-Go” task that assesses whether the color name displayed on the screen matches the color of the letters shown. The subject then presses the corresponding button. When an error occurs, the letters on the screen are displayed in large font and a beeping sound for feedback occurs.

As a result, it is showed that the elderly possibly respect accuracy more than the speed of the button press, while the young people respected speed more than accuracy. In addition, the elderly people appeared to ignore the presented stimulus more often than the young people. Many of the irritation ignoring errors tended to occur after another error. And it showed the possibility of causing an error continuously.

There was no significant correlation between the attention function of the elderly and the subjective attention experience, but as age increased, the reaction time of the button press increased, and also, the factor scores of the EAEQ did not change. As age increased, attention function was affected by age, but subjective attentional experience hardly changed, suggesting the possibility of misalignment between such.