

Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST) has been published as a measure of flexibility of thinking. Soon, it became a popular neuropsychological tool sensitive to brain damage, especially frontal lobes. Arising from the knowledge of relationship between frontal lobes and executive functions, WCST is also called an executive task. Various versions of the test have been developed. Heaton's standardization is in the focus of this thesis because it is the most often used version.

Wisconsin Card Sorting Test is supposed to be the most common executive measure in neuropsychological research. The test output gives us 16 various scores, which reflect different cognitive processes. Each score has been provided with normative data on American population. However, clinically the most valid scores are scores of perseveration: perseverative responses and perseverative errors. There is certain evidence of impaired performance in patients with frontal lobe damage, especially left-side. Additionally, assumptions arising from physiological studies on healthy people or patients with various types of neurological illnesses suggest WCST to be sensitive not only to impairment of prefrontal cortex but also to the impairment of prefrontal subcortical circuit including thalamus and basal ganglia or the prefrontal subcortical circuit.

The aim of our study was to answer question whether we could use the published Heaton's normative data in Czech population as there has been any Czech normative data available yet. We have also examined relationship between test performance and demographic variables as age, education and sex. Additionally, we have checked up the possibility of the use of the norm in the clinical settings with schizophrenic patients. Our study has been based on the wide literature concerning psychometric characteristics of the task and its use within the assessment of executive function.