

Measuring Empathy in People with Young-Onset Dementia: Validity of the Newly Developed Nummenmaa Emotion Experience Test (NEET) and the Revised Empathic Accuracy Task (EAT-R)

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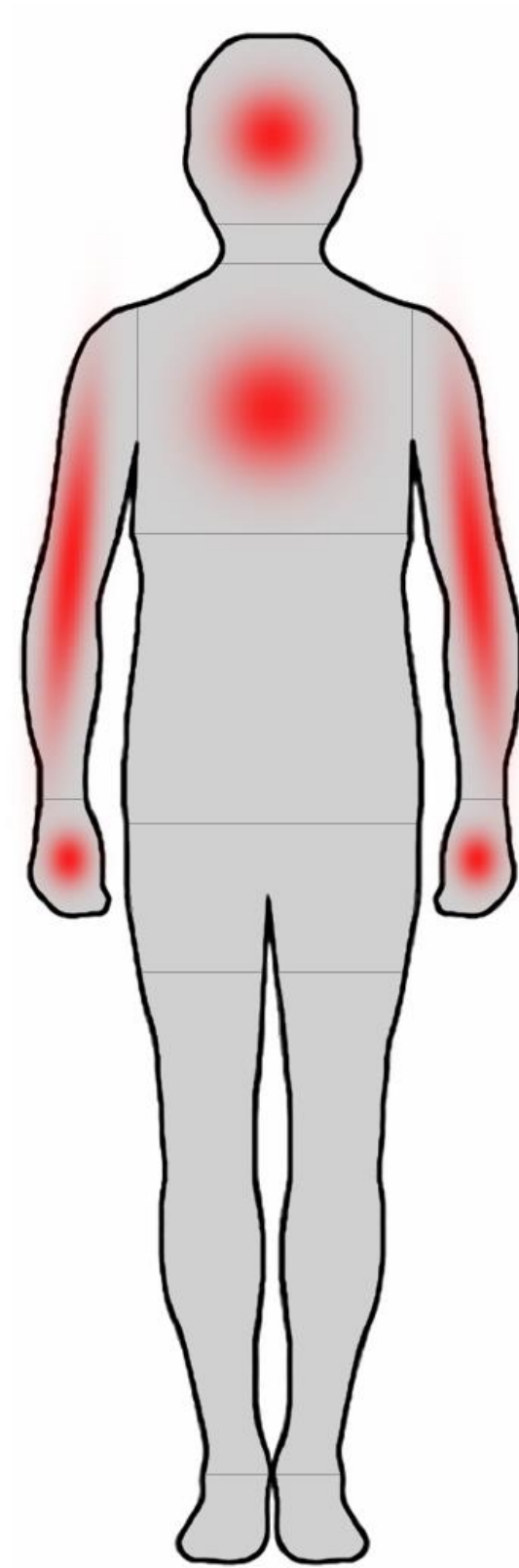
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Background

Social cognition (SC), involving the ability to perceive, process and respond appropriately to social information, is an important **affected domain** in various subtypes of **young-onset dementia (YOD)**, impacting daily life of patients and close others. Therefore, it is imperative to **accurately assess** SC impairment in people with YOD. Currently, there is a **lack of valid** and **well-normed** tests for measuring some aspects of SC, such as **bodily emotion experience** and **empathy**.

Aim: To assess **construct validity** of the newly developed tests, the NEET and the EAT-R, **by examining correlations** between the new tests and existing measures for emotion recognition (FEEST), Theory of Mind (ToM Battery), Alexithymia (TAS-20) and cognitive flexibility (TMT-B).

Anger



Fear

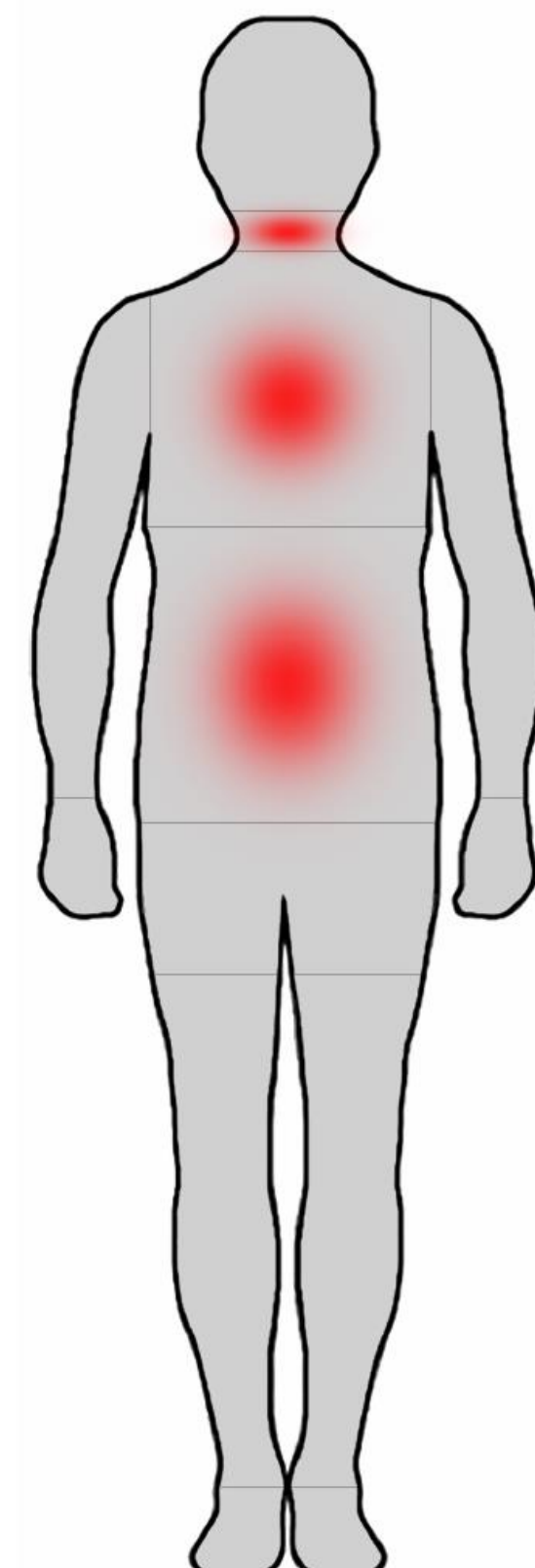


Fig 1. NEET examples

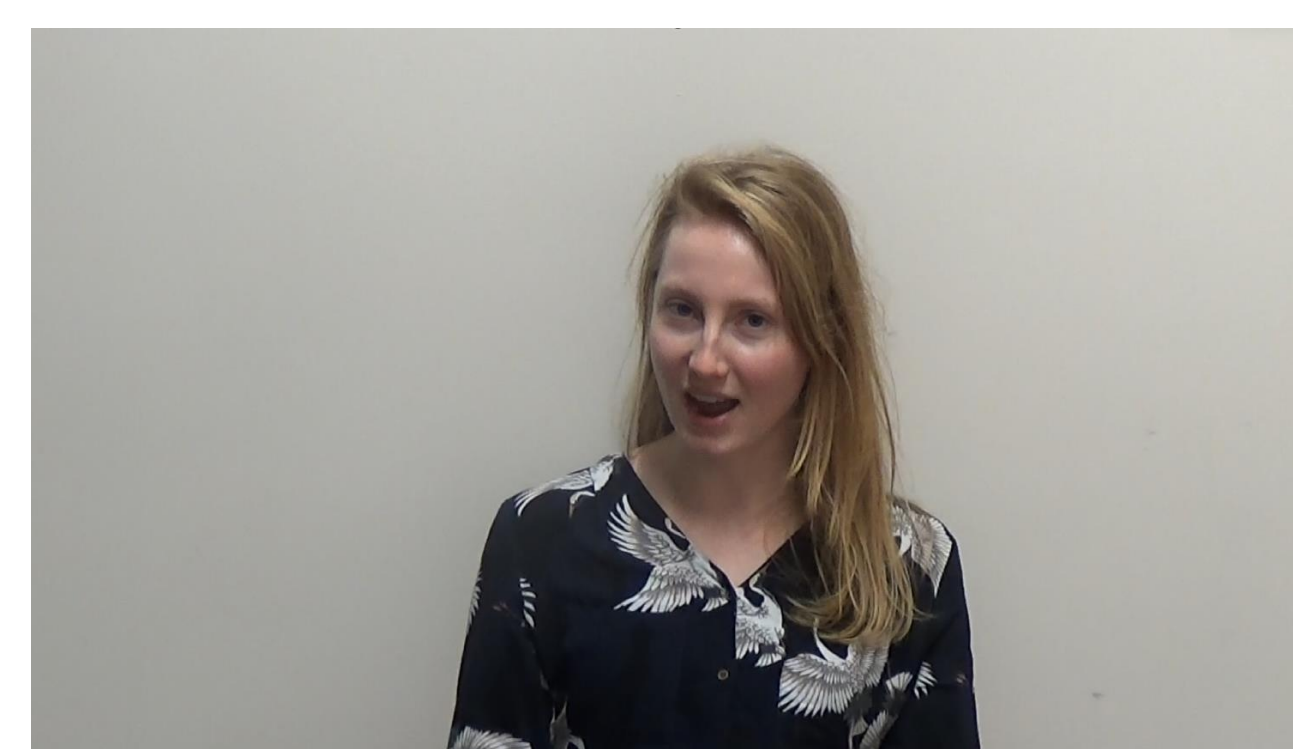
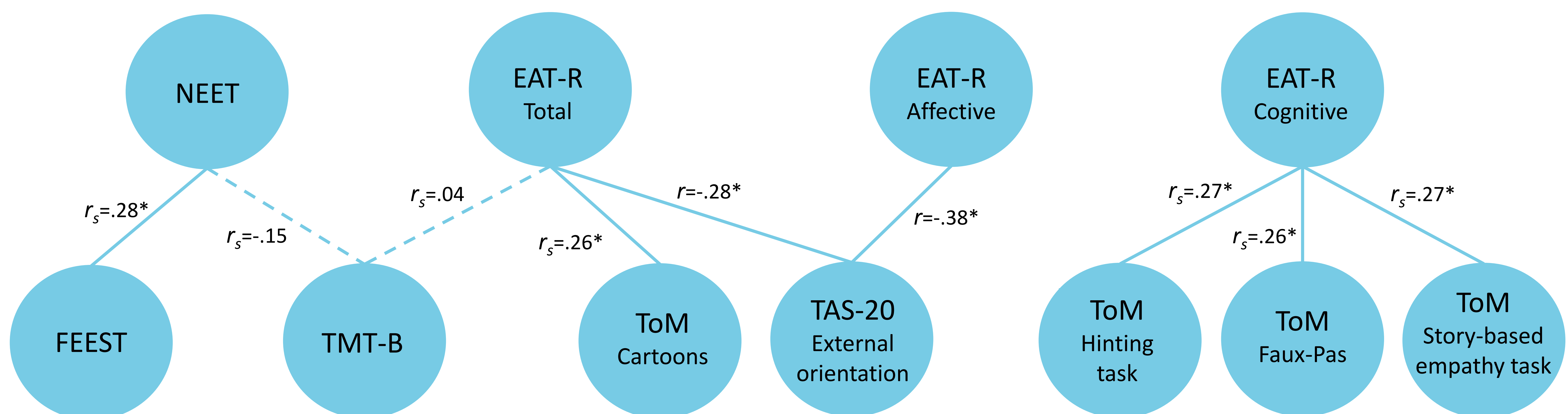


Fig 2. EAT-R video clips examples

Results



Conclusions

As expected, the NEET and EAT-C are **not associated with** a purely **cognitive test (TMT-B)**, but are **associated with (sub)tests of SC** measuring similar or related aspects. These preliminary results on construct validity seem **promising**.