

AN EARLY VALIDATION STUDY WITH THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS EVALUATOR (PSE)

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Abstract

An attempt was made to establish some validity for a new device called the Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE), which is manufactured by Dektor, Inc., of Springfield, Virginia. The reliability of the stress analyses was also studied. Twelve subjects were placed in a wagering situation designed to heighten their psychological stress. Money was concealed by the subject in one of four locations and the examiner then bet each subject that he could determine the location of the money by analyzing the subject's voice during a structured questioning period. Two trials were given for each subject. Although the PSE was unsuccessful on the first trial, on the second trial both the examiner and his assistant were independently able to select correctly the location of the money at a level significantly better than chance. Moreover, the inter-rater reliability between the examiner and his assistant was significant. The success of this study suggests that the PSE holds promise of being a valuable research tool, although much more scrutiny is needed to establish the limits of its capabilities.