

Introduction

- The growing diversity in our aging population has implications for our healthcare system – specifically the workforce’s preparedness to provide culturally responsive care to underserved, ethnically diverse older adults.
- A number of simple tests have been introduced to quickly screen patients for cognitive status.
- Among these, the Clock Drawing Test is frequently cited as a rapid sensitive screen for cognitive impairment. Yet, little is known regarding how patient education level might affect patient performance on this test.

Purpose

- To determine the impact of education level on the performance of the clock drawing test in older adult patients

Methods

- This descriptive study using a retrospective medical chart audit was performed on patients who received annual wellness exams or screening for memory disorders at a Federally Qualified Health Center affiliated with an academic hospital in California.
- Patient education level was defined as less or greater than eighth grade level.
- Data included patient age, gender, ethnicity, and language fluency.
- Patients who were unable to successfully perform the clock draw test were further screened using word recall.
- Clock drawing test materials were available in English, Spanish, and other languages.

Figures

Fig 1. Education Level of those unable to do clock drawing

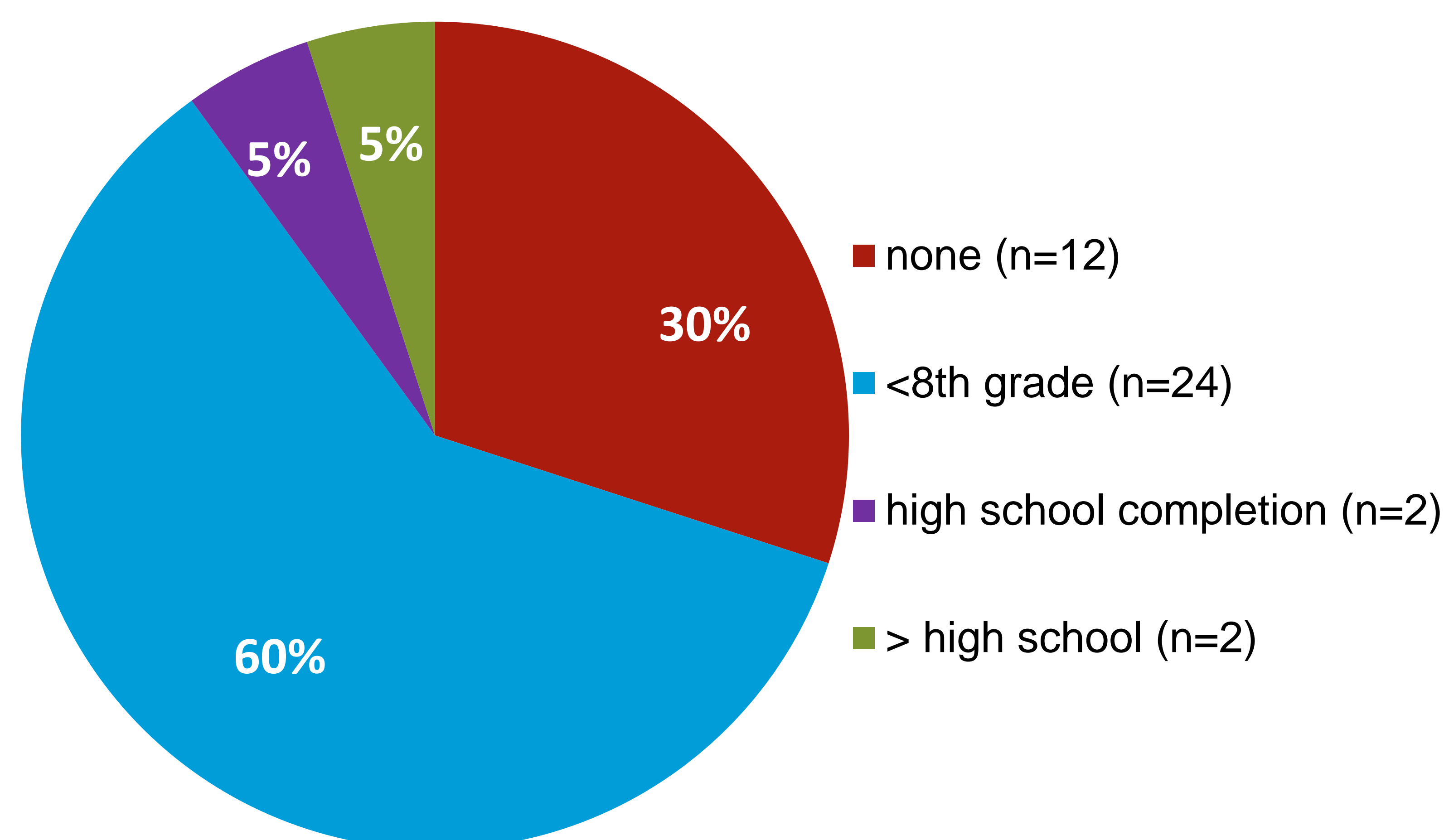
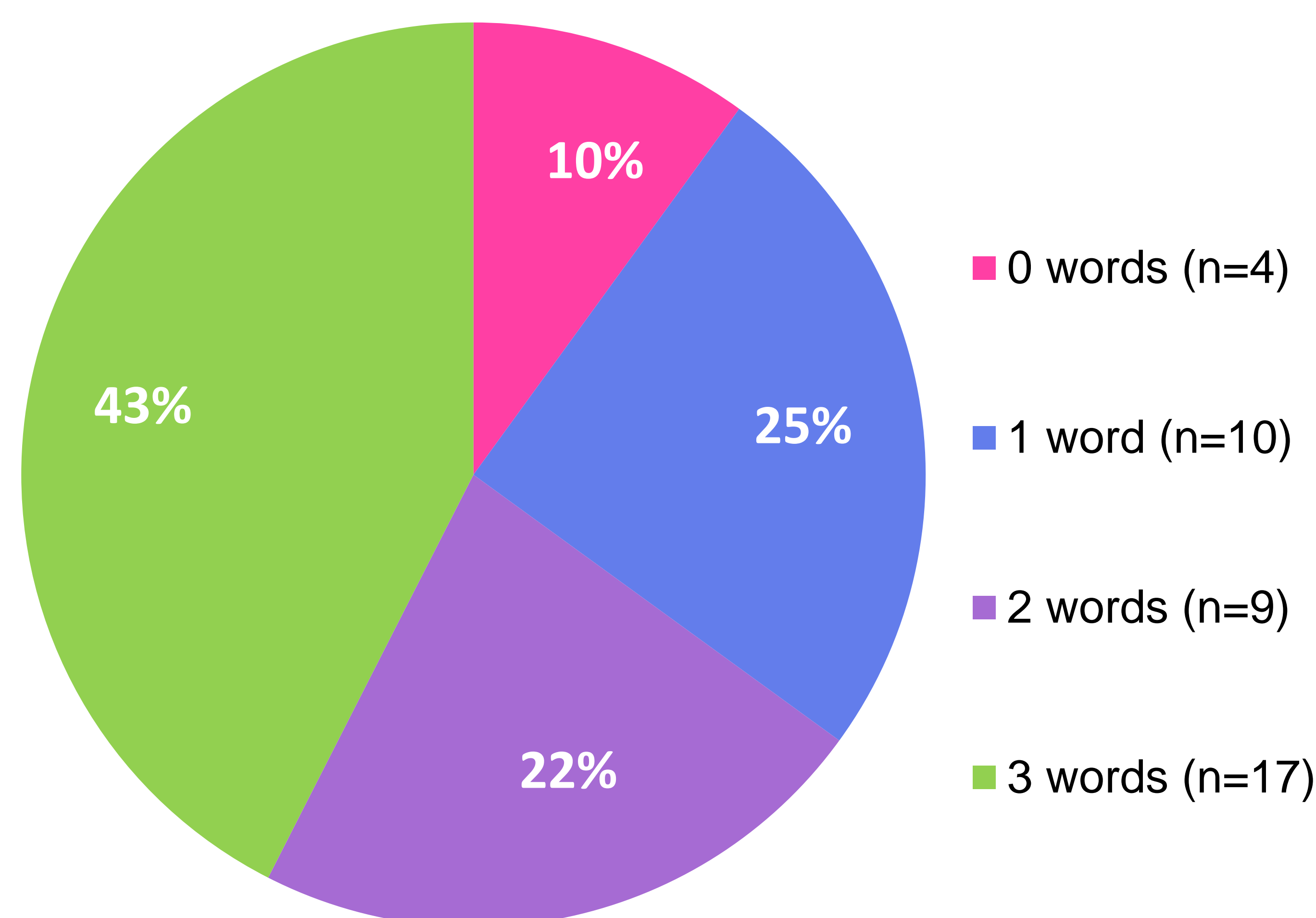


Fig 2. Number of Words recalled among those who were unable to draw the clock



Results

- 165 patients were seen during the study period. Of these, 112 patients (68%) were asked to perform clock drawing tests.
- 54 of these patients (48%) had documentation of their education level.
- 11 (20%) had an eighth grade or greater education and 43 (80%) had less than an eighth grade education.
- 40 patients were unable to perform the clock draw test.
- Four of the 11 patients (36%) having greater than an eighth grade education and 36 of the 43 patients (84%) having less than an eighth grade education level were unable to perform the clock drawing test.
- Among the four patients with greater than eighth grade education who failed the clock drawing test, 3 also failed the word recall test (75%).
- Among the 36 patients with less than an eighth grade education who failed the clock drawing test only 20 patients (55%) also failed the word recall test

Conclusion

- This preliminary study suggests that education level may significantly impact patient’s ability to successfully perform a clock drawing test.
- Other factors such as cultural background and language fluency might play a role as well.

Acknowledgements



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