

**This assessment review was compiled by our students and is intended to be used as a guide in assisting clinicians. We encourage you to review the evaluations and assessments for yourself to guarantee the most accurate and updated information.*

I. General Information

Title of the test: The biVABA (The Brain Injury Visual Assessment Battery for Adults)

Author: Mary Warren MS, OTR/L, SCLV, FAOTA

Publisher: visABILITIES Rehab Services Inc.

Time required to administer: No specific total time limit was mentioned. However, it was noted that the various tests could be given in shorter portions over time without changing the validity of the test. It also mentioned that each subtest only took minute to complete.

Cost of the Test: Retail \$700; through visAbilities \$495

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: Used to assess visual processing. More specifically, the biVABA assesses visual acuity, contrast sensitivity function, visual field, oculomotor function, and visual attention. In addition, eye dominance and pupillary responses are also measured. All of this is done with the objective of occupational performance in mind and what functional difficulties occur due to the visual impairment. Once that information is gained, the biVABA helps the therapist to set up appropriate intervention goals and treatment sessions.

Population: For ages 14 years and older. It states that the test is for individuals with problems in the CNS, anterior eye structure damage, or age related eye diseases. It can be used with persons with acquired brain injury caused by TBI, CVA, brain tumor, encephalopathies, anoxia, and degenerative neurological conditions. Also used for individuals with low vision due to diabetes, hypertension, macular degeneration, etc.

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: Instructions for each of the subtests are numbered and easy to follow. An explanation for each of the tests is given before the instructions. Although the test can be performed in smaller segment, testing needs to follow the hierarchal sequence set up. There is a list of allowable modifications listed in the manual.

All of the materials are included in the kit. The manual has pictures demonstrating some of the tests. Videos can also be referenced for further assistance.

Clarity of Directions: There is a 150-page manual describing in detail how to perform each subtest. The instructions are clear. There is plenty of background information for reasoning as to the importance of each area and what exactly the test is measuring. There are also videos demonstrating the tests.

Scoring Procedures: These tests are not to assist the OT in diagnosing eye disorders, but rather to inform the OT if the client should be referred to eye care specialists. Our goal is to take the information we have gathered to address occupational performance difficulties. Each subtest has an interpretation section. It gives an interpretation for several responses the client may give. For example, in the pupillary response subtest, if the pupils are contracted there is a section on why that may be and accommodations that need to be made for the client, such as brighter light.

For each of the subtests, there is a section on setting intervention goals and intervention suggestions.

Examiner Qualification & Training: Nothing is mentioned with regards to examiner qualification and training. However, there is an extensive manual and CD with lots of information regarding vision, TBI, the test itself, etc.

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: Norms Criterion Referenced Other Categorize _____

Reliability: Poor

Validity: Statistics were not mentioned in the manual. There was reference to a normative group, but not a lot of detail. Reliability was not discussed as being tested, rather that in using test-retest you could determine the progress of the treatment. However, no tests were reported as proving that. Validity was not mentioned within the manual. Nothing could be found online either.

Manual: Excellent Adequate Poor

What is (are) the setting/s that you would anticipate using this assessment?

This assessment could be used in acute, outpatient, home-health, and long term care facilities.

Summary of strengths and weaknesses:

Strengths:

- The test goes into great detail about each aspect of vision. The background information is great for understanding what the client is experiencing.
- The focus on occupational function is a great strength.
- Covers a wide range of vision areas.
- Intervention ideas and setting up goals in each of the subset is beneficial.
- Clear directions.
- Does not assume the role of diagnosing clients.
- It is very lightweight and portable.

Weaknesses:

- The manual is extremely long. It does go into quite a bit of detail. It could be made more user-friendly and easier to reference from quickly.
- There were no reported statistics, validity, reliability, or explanation about the norm that was used.