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# The Fake Bad Scale and MMPI-2 F-Family in Detection of Implausible Psychological Trauma Claims

M. Frank Greiffenstein, W. John Baker, Bradley Axelrod, Edward A. Peck &amp; Roger Gervais

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## Abstract

We tested the validity of the Lees-Haley Fake Bad Scale (FBS) and the family of MMPI-2 F scales (F-family; F, F(p), and F-K scales) in predicting improbable psychological trauma claims in an applied setting. Litigants reporting implausible symptoms long after minor scares and nonlitigants clinically referred following severe stressors

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applied forensic settings could derive from its development in actual litigants and

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content reflective of nonpsychotic exaggerations. The FBS appears acceptable for use in applied forensic settings where persons seek compensation for nonpsychotic syndromes.

This study was unfunded and none of the authors have any financial interest in the FBS or the MMPI-2.

## Notes

A priori cut score was set to equate specificity at 88% for males and females. Prevalence of improbable PTS is 48% in the female group, 63% in the male group, and 54% for combined sample. SENS = sensitivity; SPEC = specificity, PPP = positive predictive power, NPP = negative predictive power; Overall = overall hit rate; Incre. = incremental improvement over base rate guessing.

Twenty-one males and eleven females in the Lit-Maj group. The underlining refers to cutoff scores. Cum. Percent = cumulative percent.

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