

# An investigation into the merits of using a computer in the clinical assessment of children

<b>Submission date</b> 12/09/2003	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 12/09/2003	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 30/10/2019	<b>Condition category</b> Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

**Plain English summary of protocol**  
Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

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## Additional identifiers

**Protocol serial number**  
N0129118585

## Study information

**Scientific Title**  
An investigation into the merits of using a computer in the clinical assessment of children

**Study objectives**

The project aims to assess the merits of an established computer-assisted interview for children, the MacInterview, developed by Calam et al. (2000). The MacInterview will be compared with an equivalent paper-based interview, with particular focus on the child's engagement with the interview, the amount of information derived, the time-efficiency of the procedure, and the child's enjoyment of the procedure.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

Not provided at time of registration

**Study design**

Randomised controlled trial

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Study type(s)**

Diagnostic

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Mental and Behavioural Disorders: child psychology

**Interventions**

A. MacInterview

B. Interview using equivalent material presented in a paper-based format

The study will use an experimental (between-subjects) design involving two groups of children. One group will receive the MacInterview, the other will receive an interview using equivalent material presented in a paper-based format. Allocation to the groups will be randomised.

Each child will be interviewed on one occasion for approximately 45 minutes. The interview format will involve the child in activities including:

1. Choosing an image to represent her-/himself from a range of outline drawings of children of different sizes and ethnic origins
2. Choosing drawings to represent home and school settings which s/he has experienced and people connected with those settings
3. Working with outline faces depicting different emotional expressions (happy, sad, worried, etc)
4. Selecting representations of particular people s/he associates with particular emotions in each setting

All interviews will be video-taped to enable data to be obtained from subsequent analysis of the tapes by the researcher.

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Phase**

Not Specified

**Primary outcome(s)**

Comparison in each interview format of:

1. The number and length (word count) of the child's verbal utterances
2. The amount of time spent "on task", as opposed to attending to external distractions
3. The amount of "standard" information obtained (i.e. information provided in answering the interview questions)
4. The amount of "additional" information obtained (i.e. information volunteered by the child over and above that given in response to the interview questions)
5. The amount of "emotion-focused" information obtained (i.e. information relating to the child's feelings or emotional states)
6. The amount of time required to complete the procedure
7. The child's rating of his/her enjoyment of the interview

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

Not provided at time of registration

**Completion date**

04/11/2003

## **Eligibility**

**Key inclusion criteria**

Children aged between seven and 11 years (inclusive) referred to the Child and Adolescent Psychology Department, Carol Kendrick Unit, Withington Hospital, Nell Lane, West Didsbury, Manchester.

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Child

**Lower age limit**

7 years

**Upper age limit**

11 years

**Sex**

Not Specified

**Key exclusion criteria**

Not applicable

**Date of first enrolment**

04/11/2002

**Date of final enrolment**

04/11/2003

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

**School of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, Manchester University**

Stoke-on-Trent

United Kingdom

ST10 2LD

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

Department of Health (UK)

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Government

**Funder Name**

Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust (UK)

## **Results and Publications**

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration