

## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this project was to examine the inter-reliability of the Balance Evaluation System Test (BESTest). Ten individuals with a range of balance ability participated in the study, which included a standardized assessment of balance using the 36-item BESTest. Kendall coefficients of concordance for ordinal data were used to determine reliability on an item-wise basis. Subsection scores and the exam's total scores were analyzed by determining the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) for interrater reliability. Most of the 36 items revealed good or strong reliability, while seven items had Kendall coefficients of less than 0.70. All items in the miniBESTest except two, eyes open on a firm surface and timed get up and go with dual task, had Kendall coefficients of greater than 0.70. The ICC value for the full BESTest was 0.986 indicating strong agreement among raters. ICC values for the subsection scores showed strong agreement for all, with the exception of the subsection for assessing limits of stability. Both the BESTest and miniBESTest are reliable measures of balance impairment in a cross section of individuals with varying balance ability. A revised evaluation form facilitated administration and scoring of the BESTest.