

T.O.V.A. and Attention Screening

T.O.V.A. stands for Tests of Variables of Attention

- The test can be used for school-aged children (ages 4 and up) as well as adults, to help diagnose attention deficits.
- T.O.V.A. is a 23 minute computerized test that uses simple geometric stimuli. The patient is given specific instructions in order to complete the test as well as a practice session.
- The T.O.V.A. is used as a diagnostic tool, as well as to determine/monitor the use of medication over time.

The complete attention screening takes most patients between 45 minutes to 1 hour. It includes:

- T.O.V.A. test (23 min.)
- Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (a test measuring "learning to learn", 10-15 min)
- various "worksheets" which measure a patient's ability to follow directions as well as auditory processing.

*Unless otherwise necessary, the patient and/or parents need to schedule a follow-up appointment to discuss the test results with the doctor who ordered the test.

*A copy of the raw data is available at the time of the follow-up visit, upon request.

Test-taking tips:

- Get a good nights sleep the night before
- Eat and use the restroom before arriving for the appointment, especially applicable for children under 12.
- Remember to follow your doctor's explicit instructions about taking/not taking medication prior to the test.

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