1	Validity of the Somatic Complaints Scales of the MMPI-2-RF in an Outpatient Chronic Pain
2	Clinic
3	
4 5	Lauren D. Mickens & Duyen M. Nghiem University of Houston-Clear Lake
6 7	Dustin P. Wygent
8	Eastern Kentucky University
9	
10	Robert L. Umlauf
11 12	VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System
12	Rvan J. Marek
14	Sam Houston State University
15	
16	Author Notes:
17	This is a post-review version and may differ slightly from the final published version. Please cite
18	as follows:
19	Mickens, L.D., Nghiem, D.M., Wygant, D.B., Umlauf, R.L., & Marek, R.J. (2021).
20	Validity of the Somatic Complaints Scales of the MMPI-2-RF in an Outpatient
21	Chronic Pain Clinic. Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings.
22	https://doi.org/10.1007/s10880-021-09766-4
23	
24	Ryan J. Marek receives grant funding from the University of Minnesota Press unrelated
25	to this project. Dustin B. Wygant is a paid consultant to the University of Minnesota Press,
26	publisher of the MMPI-2-RF and Pearson Assessments.
27	Correspondence:
28	Please address all correspondence to: Ryan J. Marek, Ph.D., Sam Houston State University, 925
29	City Central Avenue, Conroe, TX 77304. Email:rxm147@shsu.edu

30

#### Abstract

31 Chronic pain has become a significant medical issue. The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality 32 Inventory-2-Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) is a broadband psychological test that has been 33 validated for use across various medical settings and can aid in the assessment and treatment 34 planning of chronic pain. In the current investigation, it was hypothesized that the somatic 35 complaints scales of the MMPI-2-RF would demonstrate good convergent validity from a 36 structured psychodiagnostic interview and other measures of pain and somatization, and lack 37 gender bias. Patients (n = 200) who produced valid MMPI-2-RFs in an outpatient chronic pain 38 clinic were included in the study. Patients were also administered the Modified Somatic 39 Perception Questionnaire (MSPQ), Pain Disability Index (PDI), and the Structured Clinical 40 Interview for DSM-IV-TR (SCID). Zero-order and partial correlations (controlling for gender) 41 were calculated between MMPI-2-RF scale scores and other criteria. Stepdown hierarchical 42 regression analyses were used to detect bias. By and large, higher scale scores on the 43 somatic/cognitive scales of the MMPI-2-RF were modestly or substantially correlated with 44 MSPQ scores, PDI scores, and SCID Somatization symptom count, even after controlling for 45 gender. Regression analyses suggested that the MMPI-2-RF scale scores were not biased as a 46 function of gender. These findings support the validity of specific MMPI-2-RF scales to help 47 identify somatization and psychosocial functioning among patients with chronic pain. 48 Identification of somatization early within the course of treatment of chronic pain may help focus 49 treatment targets, including referrals for psychological interventions such as Cognitive Behavior 50 Therapy for Chronic Pain.

51

Keywords: MMPI, Chronic Pain, Somatization, Assessment, PDI, MSPQ

73

Validity of the Somatic Complaints Scales of the MMPI-2-RF in an Outpatient Chronic Pain
 Clinic

54	Chronic pain has become a significant medical issue (Dueñas et al., 2016). Indeed, the
55	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analyzed the 2016 National Health Interview
56	Survey (NHIS) data and found an estimated 20.4% or 50 million adults in the United States
57	experience chronic pain (Dahlhamer et al., 2018). Chronic pain is associated with a myriad of
58	physical and mental health conditions that contribute to higher health care costs (Dahlhamer et
59	al., 2018). Individuals with chronic pain may experience limitations that permeate numerous
60	areas of their life. Major life domains that tend to be negatively affected include work
61	productivity, social interaction, recreational activities, and self-care practices.
62	The association between psychopathology and chronic pain has been well-studied.
63	Mental health issues, like depression, may precede the pain disorder (Bair et al., 2003; McCord
64	& Drerup, 2011). Previous work has demonstrated correlations between chronic pain and
65	depressive, anxiety, somatoform, substance use, and personality disorders (Dersh et al., 2002).
66	Accurately assessing the psychosocial functioning of patients may result in the patient attaining
67	treatment that is more beneficial in addressing and reducing chronic pain. Treatment for chronic
68	pain may include cognitive behavioral therapy and low to moderate intensity cardiovascular
69	exercises to decrease pain (Ehde et al., 2014; McBeth et al., 2012). Both treatments can be
70	implemented to help the patient improve daily functioning.
71	Multidisciplinary pain management appears to be the best approach to assess and treat
72	patients with these comorbid conditions. In cases where psychopathology precedes or coexists

with chronic pain, proper diagnosis and treatment of the mental health condition can help lessen

the role psychosocial characteristics play in the presentation of chronic pain and the patients
experience with adhering to treatment (McCord & Drerup, 2011).

76 Comorbid psychological disorders among patients with chronic pain include depression, 77 anxiety, substance use, and somatization disorders (Marek, Anderson, et al., 2020; Von Korff et 78 al., 2005). Somatization occurs when physical symptoms are indeed present (e.g., chronic pain, 79 weakness) but result in the individual having excessive thoughts, feelings, and behaviors related 80 to the physical symptoms (Association, 2013; Dimsdale et al., 2009). Notably, somatization 81 tends to predict poorer treatment outcomes in chronic pain settings (Block et al., 2017; Marek, 82 Block, et al., 2015; Marek et al., 2019). Although both men and women seek treatment for 83 chronic pain, some studies suggest somatization tends to be reported more among women than 84 men (Barsky et al., 2001; Bragazzi et al., 2014; Ladwig et al., 2001; Ladwig et al., 2000). Still, 85 other studies suggest there are no gender differences or, if differences exist, they tend to be quite 86 small (Delisle et al., 2012; Marek, Anderson, et al., 2020). On one hand, women may tend to 87 score higher on measures of somatization because women tend to utilize health care services 88 more than men (Ladwig et al., 2001). On the other hand, measures of somatization may include 89 elements of bias that tend to exaggerate gender differences. Identifying methods of assessing 90 somatization that is free of gender bias may be warranted.

91 The MMPI-2-RF (Ben-Porath & Tellegen, 2008/2011; Tellegen & Ben-Porath,
92 2008/2011) is commonly used across medical settings (Marek & Ben-Porath, 2017) and the
93 chronic pain comparison group data for men and women are also available. The authors of the
94 MMPI-2-RF addressed numerous psychometric problems with its predecessors and the test
95 yields better reliability and validity coefficients compared to its previous iterations. The MMPI96 2-RF is comprised of 338 items, including nine validity scales, and 42 substantive scales. The

5

97 substantive scales of the test assess five domains congruent with contemporary models of

98 psychopathology and is identified as one of the measures that align with the Hierarchical

99 Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP) (Kotov et al., 2017).

100 Although the MMPI-2-RF measures several domains related to emotional and behavioral 101 problems that can co-occur with chronic pain (e.g., mood, anxiety, substance abuse), the test also 102 assesses somatization. An examination of the factor structure of the Specific Problems Scales of 103 the MMPI-2-RF demonstrated four domains: Internalizing, Externalizing, Detachment, and 104 Somatization (Marek, Anderson, et al., 2020; Sellbom, 2017). Across numerous medical samples 105 (including chronic pain), the somatization factor tends to correlate most highly with external 106 criteria related to somatization and demonstrates adequate discriminant validity against other 107 criteria (including other internalizing criteria) (Marek, Anderson, et al., 2020). With regard to 108 chronic pain treatment facilities, the scale scores of the MMPI-2-RF demonstrated good 109 psychometric properties, including convergent and discriminant validity, and predicts outcomes 110 after treatment (Tarescavage et al., 2015, 2018). The scale scores on the MMPI-2-RF also serve 111 as a better differential diagnostic tools over the MMPI-2 (McCord & Drerup, 2011). Research 112 has also elucidated that MMPI-2-RF scale scores are not be biased as a function of gender, race, 113 or age among patients seeking bariatric surgery (Marek, Ben-Porath, et al., 2015). The MMPI-2-114 RF has also been developed to work well in the pre-surgical psychological evaluation of spine 115 surgery and spinal cord stimulator (SCS) patients (Block & Ben-Porath, 2018). Indeed, the 116 Somatic/Cognitive Specific Problems Scales tend to correlate well with criteria such as 117 functional disability and pain and also predicts short-term outcomes in spine surgery/SCS 118 settings (Block et al., 2013; Block et al., 2019; Block et al., 2017; Block et al., 2014; Marek, 119 Ben-Porath, et al., 2020; Marek, Block, et al., 2015; Marek et al., 2019).

120 To date, the validity of the Somatic/Cognitive Specific Problems Scales of the MMPI-2-121 RF have been validated in a chronic pain sample (Tarescavage et al., 2015); however, validity of 122 the MMPI-2-RF scale scores not been cross-validated in a secondary chronic pain treatment 123 seeking sample and examinations of gender-bias have not been explored. Moreover, external 124 criteria in previous studies (Marek, Anderson, et al., 2020; McCord & Drerup, 2011; 125 Tarescavage et al., 2015) tend to focus more on broader psychosocial variables and are limited in 126 scope regarding assessment of somatization. Additionally, limited research is available regarding 127 the differential validity (predictive bias) of the MMPI-2-RF scale scores. Thus, the current 128 investigation seeks to cross-validate the Somatic/Cognitive Specific Problems Scales of the 129 MMPI-2-RF by using symptom counts of somatization-related disorders derived from a 130 structured psychodiagnostic instrument and other self-report measures more narrowly focused to 131 assess somatization. Additionally, MMPI-2-RF scale score bias will also be examined. It is 132 hypothesized that the Somatic/Cognitive Specific Problems Scales of the MMPI-2-RF will yield 133 good convergent validity in an outpatient chronic pain sample. Additionally, it is hypothesized 134 that the Somatic/Cognitive Specific Problems Scales of the MMPI-2-RF will not exhibit gender 135 bias in assessing somatization between men and women.

136

#### Method

137 Participants

A total of 230 patients who were seeking outpatient treatment for chronic low back pain
were available. Of those, 30 patients were removed from further analyses because they produced
an invalid MMPI-2-RF according to criteria outlined in the MMPI-2-RF Technical Manual
(Tellegen & Ben-Porath, 2008/2011): Variable Response Inconsistency-Revised ≥ 80, Fixed
Response Inconsistency-Revised > 80, Infrequent Responses-Revised > 120, Infrequent

143 Psychopathology Responses > 100. Of the 200 patients included in analyses, 58.5% were women 144 and 41.5% were men. A majority of the sample identified as being White (96.0%) whereas 3% 145 identified as being Black, .5% identified as being Asian American, and .5% reported being of 146 another ethnicity. The sample had a mean age of 50.12 years old (SD = 14.39) and reported an 147 average of 12.83 years of education (SD = 2.07). Listed in Table 1 are additional demographic 148 data associated with this sample. Use of this database was approved by the third author's 149 Institutional Review Board and patients provided consent at the time of their evaluation that their 150 archival data could be used for research. 151 Measures 152 Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory -2 - Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF; 153 Ben-Porath & Tellegen, 2008/2011; Tellegen & Ben-Porath, 2008/2011). The MMPI-2-RF is a 154 338-item, self-report inventory that assesses personality and psychosocial functioning congruent 155 with contemporary models of psychopathology/personality (Kotov et al., 2017; Sellbom, 2019). 156 The MMPI-2-RF captures a broad range of psychological functioning, including internalizing, 157 externalizing, thought disorder, interpersonal, and somatization. Notably, the scale scores of the 158 MMPI-2-RF yield good reliability and validity (including convergent, discriminant, and 159 predictive validity) coefficients when used with chronic low back pain patients (Marek, 160 Anderson, et al., 2020; Tarescavage, 2015; Tarescavage et al., 2015). 161 Pain Disability Index (PDI; Pollard, 1984). The PDI is a 7-item, self-report measure that 162 assesses how pain disrupts various domains of functioning (e.g., social activity, responsibilities). 163 The scale score of the PDI yields good reliability and validity coefficients when used in various 164 chronic pain settings (Jerome & Gross, 1991; Tait et al., 1990). In the current sample,

165 Cronbach's alpha was equal to .88 (mean inter-item correlation = .51) indicating good reliability.

*Modified Somatic Perception Questionnaire (MSPQ; Main, 1983).* The MSPQ is a 13 item, self-report measure that assesses somatic and autonomic perception in patients with chronic
 pain. Although the scale score of the measure yields some questionable psychometrics regarding
 its ability to predict functional disabilities and outcomes (Deyo et al., 1989; Donaldson et al.,
 2011). In the current sample, Cronbach's alpha was equal to .84 (mean inter-item correlation =

171 .29) indicating good reliability.

#### 172 Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV-TR Disorders: Somatoform

173 Disorders Module (SCID; First et al., 2002). The SCID used in this study is a structured clinical 174 interview to aid in formulating reliable psychiatric diagnosis consistent with the DSM-IV-TR 175 (Association, 2000). For the current study, only the somatoform disorders module was utilized. 176 Standardized administration was modified to remove skip-out decision rules to fully assess the 177 range of symptomatology for each of these conditions with a dimensional symptom 178 count. Additionally, DSM-5 (Association, 2013) uses different criteria to diagnose somatic 179 symptom-related disorders. Due to advances in understanding psychodiagnosis from a 180 dimensional perspective (Kotov et al., 2017), examining the number of overall symptoms across 181 somatization disorders likely serves as better dimensional proxy for severity of somatization-182 related functioning. Thus, a symptom count variable was used in the current study, such that 183 more symptoms reported indicates more severe somatization.

#### 184 **Procedure**

Data were drawn from a retrospective, deidentified database. Patients consented to have their clinical data used archivally for research purposes. Participants were administered the MMPI-2-RF, MSPQ, PDI, and SCID somatoform disorders module as part of their routine clinical evaluations. Means and standard deviations were calculated by gender for each scale

189 score used in the study (Tables 2 and 3). Additionally, *t*-tests were calculated to test whether 190 scale scores differed significantly and meaningfully between gender. Cohen's d effect sizes were 191 calculated for each *t*-test. Pearson Product-Moment correlations (Table 4) were calculated to 192 examine the convergent validity of the MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive Scales. Also contained in 193 Table 4 are partial correlations controlling for gender. 194 To test whether the MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scale scores are biased as a function 195 of gender, stepdown hierarchical regression analyses were conducted (Lautenschlager & 196 Mendoza, 1986). Briefly, a regression model that included only the MMPI-2-RF scale score as a 197 predictor (prediction model) was compared with one that included that scale, the gender, and the 198 interaction of the two (full model).  $R^2$  was examined to compare models (.010 = Small Effect 199 Size; .090 = Medium Effect Size; .250 = Large Effect Size)(Cohen, 1988). If there is a 200 significant increase in  $R^2$  between models, potential bias is occurring and follow-up tests to 201 determine if bias is occurring in the slope or the intercept were then conducted. To conduct a test 202 of slope bias, the full model is compared to a model with the MMPI-2-RF scale score and gender. If there is a significant increase in  $R^2$  between models, slope bias is present and intercept 203 204 bias is then tested. To test for intercept bias when slope bias is present, the full model was

205 compared to a model with the MMPI-2-RF scale score and the moderator. If there is a

206 significant increase in  $R^2$  between models, intercept bias is present. If slope bias was not

207 detected, intercept bias was then tested by comparing the prediction model with a model that

208 includes the MMPI-2-RF scale score and gender. Again, a significant increase in  $R^2$  between

209 models indicates that intercept bias is present. All continuous predictors were centered around

210 their means and centered values were also used in the computation of the moderating variable.

211 These results are reported in Table 5.

212	Results
213	Listed in Table 2 are means, standard deviations, and inferential statistics between
214	MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scales and gender. By and large, women tended to score higher
215	on a number of MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scales, including Somatic Complaints, Head
216	Pain Complaints, and Cognitive Complaints. These differences yielded small to medium effect
217	sizes.
218	Displayed in Table 3 are means, standard deviations, and inferential statistics between the
219	PDI scale score, MSPQ scale score, and SCID somatization symptom count broken down by
220	gender. Women tended to score higher on the MSPQ compared to men and this difference
221	yielded a medium effect size.
222	Listed in Table 4 are zero-order and partial correlations (controlling for gender) between
223	the MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scales and the criteria measures (PDI, MSPQ, and SCID
224	somatization symptom count). The Somatic Complaints scale scores were positive and modestly
225	associated with PDI scores and SCID somatization symptom count. A substantial association
226	was founded between Somatic Complaint scale scores and MSPQ scales scores. Malaise scores
227	were modestly related to PDI scores and MSPQ count and small to moderately related to SCID
228	somatization symptom count. The Gastrointestinal Complaints scale score was small to modestly
229	associated with SCID somatization symptom count and moderately associated with MSPQ
230	scores. MSPQ scale scores were also modestly associated with Head Pain Complaints,
231	Neurological Complaints, and Cognitive Complaints scale scores. Small to modest associates
232	were evidenced between Head Pain Complaints, Neurological Complaints, and Cognitive
233	Complaints scale scores and PDI scores and SCID somatization symptom count. When

1	1

234 comparing the zero-order correlations to the partial correlations, the magnitude of the 235 associations did not substantially change as a result of controlling for gender. 236 Displayed in Table 5 are results of slope/intercept bias analyses of the MMPI-2-RF 237 Somatic/Cognitive scales by gender with the three criteria (PDI, MSPO, SCID somatization 238 symptom count). No evidence of bias emerged when predicting PID scores and SCID 239 somatization symptom count. When using the MSPQ as a dependent variable, analyses demonstrated significant increments in  $R^2$  when using Malaise, Neurological Complaints, and 240 241 Cognitive Complaints scales. Although statistically significant, these increments were small in 242 effect size. Nonetheless, slope and intercept bias analyses were conducted. None of the analyses 243 supported indices of slope bias. Intercept bias was present in all three follow-up analyses, though 244 the effect sizes were quite small. In all instances, Malaise, Neurological Complaints, and 245 Cognitive Complaints scales tended to over-predict somatization in men and under-predict them 246 in women.

247

#### Discussion

248 Overall, analyses largely supported the hypotheses. Notably, the Somatic/Cognitive 249 Specific Problems Scales of the MMPI-2-RF tended to correlate well with two alternative self-250 report measures of somatic symptoms and converged well with clinician interview data from the 251 SCID. Because women tended to score higher on several scales of the MMPI-2-RF, differential 252 validity also needed to be considered. By and large, the MMPI-2-RF scale scores used in this 253 study demonstrate little to no evidence of differentially predicting somatization across gender. 254 MMPI-2-RF scale scores converged well with external criteria. Notably, scale scores 255 yielded good convergent validity coefficients with both self-report and interview-based methods 256 of assessing for somatization. Past studies often relied on indices of functional disability, reports

of medical problems, and medical chart diagnoses that may infer a somatization component (e.g.,
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) (Block et al., 2013; Marek, Anderson, et al., 2020; Marek, BenPorath, et al., 2020; Tarescavage et al., 2015). The coefficients in the current investigation add to
the current literature suggesting that the MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scale scores yield good
construct validity in chronic pain settings by using both interview and self-report data specific to
the construct of somatization.

263 Descriptive information reported in this study demonstrated a common observation 264 across medical samples. Notably, women tended to have higher scores on somatic scale scores 265 across measures. However, consistent with some past reports (Delisle et al., 2012), these 266 differences yielded small effect sizes. Once gender was controlled for, the MMPI-2-RF validity 267 coefficients were not much affected. Follow-up analyses to test for potential gender bias in the 268 MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scale scores were largely unsupported. A few scale scores 269 (Malaise, Neurological Complaints, and Cognitive Complaints) slightly over-predicted MSPQ 270 scores for men and under-predicted MSPQ scores for women. However, these instances of 271 intercept bias did not occur across other indices of somatization, including symptom count 272 derived from a structured clinical interview. Because men tended to score lower on the MSPQ 273 and women tended to score higher on the MSPQ, it is likely that the these observed effects 274 reflect gender differences in the MSPQ vs. over-/under-prediction on the MMPI-2-RF scale 275 scores. It is also important to note that the intercept bias coefficients in these analyses tended to 276 be small in effect size. Thus, gender-based differential validity was not supported. Overall, there 277 was a lack of differential validity in the MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scale scores. Thus, the 278 MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scale scores are not biased as a function of gender among 279 patients seeking treatment for chronic pain. Importantly, MMPI-2-RF scale scores tend to be

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

unbiased in their assessment of psychological constructs in medical settings as evidenced here
and elsewhere (Marek, Ben-Porath, et al., 2015). Contemporary models of psychopathology
(Kotov et al., 2017) suggest that somatization is a separate spectrum from internalizing (mood,
anxiety, distress) and empirical evidence to date supports this claim (Kotov et al., 2011; Marek,
Anderson, et al., 2020; Sellbom, 2017). Using a test, such as the MMPI-2-RF, can offer a more
delineated assessment of somatization while also providing assessment of distress, mood,
anxiety, and substance-related problems. To add MMPI-2-RF is one of the recommended

287 measures listed to assess HiTOP (Kotov et al., 2017). Additionally, using a test such as the

288 MMPI-2-RF limits the need to administer multiple screeners in piecemeal fashion, some of

289 which have not been well-validated in medical populations.

290 These findings also point towards broader implications in future research regarding 291 somatization. Similar to past studies (Barsky et al., 2001; Bragazzi et al., 2014; Ladwig et al., 292 2001; Ladwig et al., 2000), women in the current investigation reported greater severity of 293 somatization than men; however, scale differences did not result in differential validity 294 suggesting that the MMPI-2-RF accurately assesses somatization regardless of gender. Ladwig et 295 al. (2001) reported that women were at a much higher risk for somatization than men, but gender 296 differences in risk for somatization were similar once emotional distress and socioeconomic 297 status were accounted for. Ladwig et al. (2001)'s study implied that other sociodemographic and 298 psychological variables may play a role in somatic symptom expression. Bragazzi et al. (2014) 299 also reported that cultural differences accounted for disparities in scores on the MSPQ, 300 suggesting that somatic symptom expression may be influenced by cultural norms. Overall,

301 future research needs to better understand and account for cultural differences or socioeconomic

status in assessing somatization and understanding how those demographics affect treatmentoutcomes.

304 The current investigation has several limitations. Because the sample reported that they 305 were predominately white/Caucasian, differential validity of the MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive 306 scale scores as a function of race/ethnicity was not able to be conducted due to low statistical 307 power. Nonetheless, other studies using chronic pain patients and bariatric surgery patients 308 suggest that the MMPI-2-RF scales are likely not biased as a function of race/ethnicity (Marek, 309 Anderson, et al., 2020; Marek, Ben-Porath, et al., 2015). Another limitation was the lack of 310 treatment outcome data. Although the MMPI-2-RF Somatic/Cognitive scale scores tend to 311 predict emotional functioning and functional disability after treatment in both non-surgical 312 (Tarescavage et al., 2018) and surgical (Block et al., 2017; Marek, Block, et al., 2015) settings, 313 no study to date has examined how somatization changes as a function of treatment. Follow-up 314 studies examining predictors of treatment outcomes should consider using a measure of 315 somatization in addition to measures of internalizing and externalizing functioning. 316 An important implication of the current investigation is how these results will likely carry 317 over to the MMPI-3 (Ben-Porath & Tellegen, 2020a, 2020b) and to the broader understanding of 318 psychosocial functioning. Many of the Somatic/Cognitive Scales of the MMPI-2-RF are being 319 carried over and enhanced for the MMPI-3. New normative data have been collected and item 320 content has been revised and updated. The MMPI-3 is aligned with contemporary models of 321 psychopathology, and comparison group data for spine surgery patients will be available when 322 the new test is published. Somatic Complaints, Malaise, Neurological Complaints, and Cognitive 323 Complaints will all appear on the MMPI-3 (with some enhancements), along with a newly 324 developed scales addressing eating-related concerns, impulsivity, self-importance, and

325 compulsivity. Because the test will be similar to the MMPI-2-RF, results from the current 326 investigation will likely provide some continuity for the MMPI-3. Across both the MMPI-2-RF 327 and MMPI-3, these tests differentially assess problems with mood, anxiety, distress, and 328 somatization. Because many patients who present in medical settings often exhibit a fair amount 329 of demoralization (Fava et al., 1995), tests' and measures' discriminant validity are often 330 confounded. By using psychological tests and measures that appropriately differentiate between 331 these constructs, practitioners can better understand their patients and can use test scores to aid in 332 differential diagnosis and treatment planning. Taken together, the MMPI-2-RF is a well-333 validated, broadband test of personality and psychosocial functioning. The test can assess for a 334 wide-range of functioning, including somatization. Accumulating evidence also suggests that the 335 scale scores of the test tend to not be biased as a function of demographics. When used in a 336 chronic pain setting, mental health professionals can gather a vast amount of information about 337 the client that are pertinent to the diagnosis and treatment planning of their patients in under an 338 hour.

339	<b>Compliance with Ethical Standards</b>
340	Funding: None.
341	Conflict of Interest: The first author receives grant funding from the University of
342	Minnesota Press unrelated to this project. The third author is a paid consultant to the University
343	of Minnesota Press, publisher of the MMPI-2-RF and Pearson Assessments. The other authors
344	report no conflicts of interest.
345	Ethical approval: All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were
346	in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee
347	and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.
348	This article does not contain any studies with animals performed by any of the authors.
349	Informed consent: Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants
350	included in the study at the time the data were collected.
351	
352	

353	References
354	Association, A. P. (2000). Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV-TR.
355	American Psychiatric Association.
356	
357	Association, A. P. (2013). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed.).
358	American Psychiatric Publishing.
359	https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596.734227
360	
361	Bair, M. J., Robinson, R. L., Katon, W., & Kroenke, K. (2003, Nov 10). Depression and pain
362	comorbidity: a literature review. Arch Intern Med, 163(20), 2433-2445.
363	https://doi.org/10.1001/archinte.163.20.2433
364	
365	Barsky, A. J., Peekna, H. M., & Borus, J. F. (2001, Apr). Somatic symptom reporting in women
366	and men. J Gen Intern Med, 16(4), 266-275.
367	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11318929
368	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1495200/pdf/jgi_00229.pdf
369	
370	Ben-Porath, Y. S., & Tellegen, A. (2008/2011). The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality
371	Inventory-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF): Manual for administration, scoring, and
372	interpretation. University of Minnesota Press.
373	http://www.pearsonassessments.com/HAIWEB/Cultures/en-
374	us/Productdetail.htm?Pid=PAg523&Mode=summary
375	

376	Ben-Porath, Y. S., & Tellegen, A. (2020a). The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-3:
377	Manual for administration, scoring, and interpretation. University of Minnesota Press.
378	
379	Ben-Porath, Y. S., & Tellegen, A. (2020b). The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-3:
380	Technical Manual. University of Minnesota Press.
381	
382	Block, A. R., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2018). MMPI-2-RF User's Guide for the Spine Surgery and
383	Spinal Cord Stimulator Candidate Interpretive Reports. University of Minnesota Press.
384	
385	Block, A. R., Ben-Porath, Y. S., & Marek, R. J. (2013, Sep 21). Psychological risk factors for
386	poor outcome of spine surgery and spinal cord stimulator implant: a review of the
387	literature and their assessment with the MMPI-2-RF. Clin Neuropsychol, 27(1), 81-107.
388	https://doi.org/10.1080/13854046.2012.721007
389	
390	Block, A. R., Marek, R. J., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2019, Jun). Patient Activation Mediates the
391	Association Between Psychosocial Risk Factors and Spine Surgery Results. J Clin
392	Psychol Med Settings, 26(2), 123-130. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10880-018-9571-x
393	
394	Block, A. R., Marek, R. J., Ben-Porath, Y. S., & Kukal, D. (2017, Jan). Associations Between
395	Pre-Implant Psychosocial Factors and Spinal Cord Stimulation Outcome: Evaluation
396	Using the MMPI-2-RF. Assessment, 24(1), 60-70.
397	https://doi.org/10.1177/1073191115601518

399	Block, A. R., Marek, R. J., Ben-Porath, Y. S., & Ohnmeiss, D. D. (2014). Associations Between
400	Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2-Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) Scores,
401	Workers' Compensation Status, and Spine Surgery Outcome. Journal of Applied
402	Biobehavioral Research, 19(4), 248-267.
403	
404	Bragazzi, N. L., Puente, G. D., & Natta, W. M. (2014). Somatic perception, cultural differences
405	and immigration: results from administration of the Modified Somatic Perception
406	Questionnaire (MSPQ) to a sample of immigrants. Psychol Res Behav Manag, 7, 161-
407	166. https://doi.org/10.2147/PRBM.S55393
408	
409	Cohen, J. (1988). Statistical power analysis for the behavioral sciences (2nd ed.). Psychology
410	Press.
411	
412	Dahlhamer, J., Lucas, J., Zelaya, C., Nahin, R., Mackey, S., DeBar, L., Kerns, R., Von Korff, M.,
413	Porter, L., & Helmick, C. (2018, Sep 14). Prevalence of Chronic Pain and High-Impact
414	Chronic Pain Among Adults - United States, 2016. Mmwr-Morbidity and Mortality
415	Weekly Report, 67(36), 1001-1006. https://doi.org/DOI 10.15585/mmwr.mm6736a2
416	
417	Delisle, V. C., Beck, A. T., Dobson, K. S., Dozois, D. J., & Thombs, B. D. (2012). Revisiting
418	gender differences in somatic symptoms of depression: much ado about nothing? PLoS
419	one, 7(2).
420	

421	Dersh, J., Polatin, P. B., & Gatchel, R. J. (2002, Sep-Oct). Chronic pain and psychopathology:
422	research findings and theoretical considerations. Psychosomatic Medicine, 64(5), 773-
423	786. https://doi.org/10.1097/01.psy.0000024232.11538.54
424	
425	Deyo, R. A., Walsh, N. E., Schoenfeld, L. S., & Ramamurthy, S. (1989, May). Studies of the
426	Modified Somatic Perceptions Questionnaire (MSPQ) in patients with back pain.
427	Psychometric and predictive properties. Spine (Phila Pa 1976), 14(5), 507-510.
428	https://doi.org/10.1097/00007632-198905000-00006
429	
430	Dimsdale, J., Creed, F., & Disorders, DV. W. o. S. S. (2009, Jun). The proposed diagnosis of
431	somatic symptom disorders in DSM-V to replace somatoform disorders in DSM-IVa
432	preliminary report. J Psychosom Res, 66(6), 473-476.
433	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2009.03.005
434	
435	Donaldson, M. B., Learman, K., Wright, A., Brown, C., Howes, C., & Cook, C. E. (2011, Jan).
436	Factor structure and concurrent/convergent validity of the modified somatic perception
437	questionnaire and pain beliefs instrument. J Manipulative Physiol Ther, 34(1), 30-36.
438	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmpt.2010.11.002
439	
440	Dueñas, M., Ojeda, B., Salazar, A., Mico, J. A., & Failde, I. (2016). A review of chronic pain
441	impact on patients, their social environment and the health care system. Journal of pain
442	research, 9, 457.
443	https://www.dovepress.com/front_end/cr_data/cache/pdf/download_1598116760_5f4153

444	98ba431/JPR-105892-a-review-of-chronic-pain-impact-on-patientstheir-social-
445	en_062816.pdf
446	
447	Ehde, D. M., Dillworth, T. M., & Turner, J. A. (2014, Feb-Mar). Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
448	for Individuals With Chronic Pain Efficacy, Innovations, and Directions for Research.
449	American Psychologist, 69(2), 153-166. https://doi.org/10.1037/a0035747
450	
451	Fava, G. A., Freyberger, H. J., Bech, P., Christodoulou, G., Sensky, T., Theorell, T., & Wise, T.
452	N. (1995). Diagnostic-Criteria for Use in Psychosomatic Research. Psychotherapy and
453	psychosomatics, 63(1), 1-8. https://doi.org/Doi 10.1159/000288931
454	
455	First, M. B., Spitzer, R. L., Gibbon, M., & Williams, J. B. (2002). Structured clinical interview
456	for DSM-IV-TR axis I disorders, research version, patient edition.
457	
458	Jerome, A., & Gross, R. T. (1991, Oct). Pain disability index: construct and discriminant
459	validity. Arch Phys Med Rehabil, 72(11), 920-922. https://doi.org/10.1016/0003-
460	9993(91)90012-8
461	
462	Kotov, R., Krueger, R. F., Watson, D., Achenbach, T. M., Althoff, R. R., Bagby, R. M., Brown,
463	T. A., Carpenter, W. T., Caspi, A., Clark, L. A., Eaton, N. R., Forbes, M. K., Forbush, K.
464	T., Goldberg, D., Hasin, D., Hyman, S. E., Ivanova, M. Y., Lynam, D. R., Markon, K.,
465	Miller, J. D., Moffitt, T. E., Morey, L. C., Mullins-Sweatt, S. N., Ormel, J., Patrick, C. J.,
466	Regier, D. A., Rescorla, L., Ruggero, C. J., Samuel, D. B., Sellbom, M., Simms, L. J.,

467	Skodol, A. E., Slade, T., South, S. C., Tackett, J. L., Waldman, I. D., Waszczuk, M. A.,
468	Widiger, T. A., Wright, A. G. C., & Zimmerman, M. (2017, May). The Hierarchical
469	Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP): A dimensional alternative to traditional
470	nosologies. J Abnorm Psychol, 126(4), 454-477. https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000258
471	
472	Kotov, R., Ruggero, C. J., Krueger, R. F., Watson, D., Yuan, Q., & Zimmerman, M. (2011, Oct).
473	New dimensions in the quantitative classification of mental illness. Arch Gen Psychiatry,
474	68(10), 1003-1011. https://doi.org/10.1001/archgenpsychiatry.2011.107
475	
476	Ladwig, K. H., Marten-Mittag, B., Erazo, N., & Gundel, H. (2001, Nov-Dec). Identifying
477	somatization disorder in a population-based health examination survey: psychosocial
478	burden and gender differences. Psychosomatics, 42(6), 511-518.
479	https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.psy.42.6.511
480	
481	Ladwig, K. H., Marten-Mittag, B., Formanek, B., & Dammann, G. (2000, Jun). Gender
482	differences of symptom reporting and medical health care utilization in the German
483	population. Eur J Epidemiol, 16(6), 511-518. https://doi.org/10.1023/a:1007629920752
484	
485	Lautenschlager, G. J., & Mendoza, J. L. (1986, Jun). A Step-down Hierarchical Multiple-
486	Regression Analysis for Examining Hypotheses About Test Bias in Prediction. Applied
487	Psychological Measurement, 10(2), 133-139. https://doi.org/Doi
488	10.1177/014662168601000202
489	

490	Main, C. J. (1983). The Modified Somatic Perception Questionnaire (MSPQ). J Psychosom Res,
491	27(6), 503-514. https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-3999(83)90040-5
492	
493	Marek, R. J., Anderson, J. L., Tarescavage, A. M., Martin-Fernandez, K., Haugh, S., Block, A.
494	R., Heinberg, L. J., Jimenez, X., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2020, Feb). Elucidating
495	somatization in a dimensional model of psychopathology across medical settings. $J$
496	Abnorm Psychol, 129(2), 162-176. https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000475
497	
498	Marek, R. J., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2017). Using the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality
499	Inventory–2–Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) in Behavioral Medicine Settings. In M. E.
500	Maruish (Ed.), Handbook of Psychological Assessment in Primary Care Settings, Second
501	Edition (pp. 631-662). Routledge.
502	
503	Marek, R. J., Ben-Porath, Y. S., Epker, J. T., Kreymer, J. K., & Block, A. R. (2020, Jan-Feb).
504	Reliability and Validity of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory - 2 -
505	Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) in Spine Surgery and Spinal Cord Stimulator Samples.
506	J Pers Assess, 102(1), 22-35. https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2018.1488719
507	
508	Marek, R. J., Ben-Porath, Y. S., Sellbom, M., McNulty, J. L., & Heinberg, L. J. (2015, May-
509	Jun). Validity of Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory - 2 - Restructured Form
510	(MMPI-2-RF) scores as a function of gender, ethnicity, and age of bariatric surgery
511	candidates. Surg Obes Relat Dis, 11(3), 627-634.
512	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soard.2014.10.005

513	
514	Marek, R. J., Block, A. R., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2015, Mar). The Minnesota Multiphasic
515	Personality Inventory-2-Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF): incremental validity in
516	predicting early postoperative outcomes in spine surgery candidates. Psychol Assess,
517	27(1), 114-124. https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0000035
518	
519	Marek, R. J., Block, A. R., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2019, Jul). Validation of a Psychological
520	Screening Algorithm for Predicting Spine Surgery Outcomes. Assessment, 26(5), 915-
521	928. https://doi.org/10.1177/1073191117719512
522	
523	McBeth, J., Prescott, G., Scotland, G., Lovell, K., Keeley, P., Hannaford, P., McNamee, P.,
524	Symmons, D. P., Woby, S., & Gkazinou, C. (2012). Cognitive behavior therapy, exercise,
525	or both for treating chronic widespread pain. Arch Intern Med, 172(1), 48-57.
526	https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/articlepdf/1108641/ioi15076_48
527	_57.pdf
528	
529	McCord, D. M., & Drerup, L. C. (2011, Jan). Relative practical utility of the Minnesota
530	Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 Restructured Clinical Scales versus the Clinical
531	Scales in a chronic pain patient sample. J Clin Exp Neuropsychol, 33(1), 140-146.
532	https://doi.org/10.1080/13803395.2010.495056
533	
534	Pollard, C. A. (1984, Dec). Preliminary validity study of the pain disability index. Percept Mot
535	Skills, 59(3), 974. https://doi.org/10.2466/pms.1984.59.3.974

536	
537	Sellbom, M. (2017, Jul-Aug). Mapping the MMPI-2-RF Specific Problems Scales Onto Extant
538	Psychopathology Structures. J Pers Assess, 99(4), 341-350.
539	https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2016.1206909
540	
541	Sellbom, M. (2019, May 7). The MMPI-2-Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF): Assessment of
542	Personality and Psychopathology in the Twenty-First Century. Annu Rev Clin Psychol,
543	15, 149-177. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-clinpsy-050718-095701
544	
545	Tait, R. C., Chibnall, J. T., & Krause, S. (1990, Feb). The Pain Disability Index: psychometric
546	properties. Pain, 40(2), 171-182. https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-3959(90)90068-0
547	
548	Tarescavage, A. M. (2015). Predicting treatment outcomes among low back pain patients using
549	the Minnespota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2-Restructured Form Kent State
550	University].
551	
552	Tarescavage, A. M., Scheman, J., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2015, Jun). Reliability and validity of the
553	Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2-Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) in
554	evaluations of chronic low back pain patients. Psychol Assess, 27(2), 433-446.
555	https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0000056
556	
557	Tarescavage, A. M., Scheman, J., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2018, Mar). Prospective Comparison of
558	the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) and MMPI-2-Restructured

559	Form (MMPI-2-RF) in Predicting Treatment Outcomes Among Patients with Chronic
560	Low Back Pain. Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings, 25(1), 66-79.
561	https://doi.org/10.1007/s10880-017-9535-6
562	
563	Tellegen, A., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2008/2011). The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality
564	Inventory-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF): Technical Manual. University of
565	Minnesota Press. http://www.pearsonassessments.com/HAIWEB/Cultures/en-
566	us/Productdetail.htm?Pid=PAg523&Mode=summary
567	
568	Von Korff, M., Crane, P., Lane, M., Miglioretti, D. L., Simon, G., Saunders, K., Stang, P.,
569	Brandenburg, N., & Kessler, R. (2005, Feb). Chronic spinal pain and physical-mental
570	comorbidity in the United States: results from the national comorbidity survey
571	replication. Pain, 113(3), 331-339. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pain.2004.11.010
572	

- 573 Table 1.
- 574 Additional demographic data of patients in the current sample.
- 575

Demographic Characteristics	Prevalence
Reason for Evaluation	
Spinal Cord Stimulator	43.00%
Medication Management	43.50%
Psychological Services	13.50%
Receiving Disability Benefits	36.08%
Currently Participating in Outpatient Mental Health Treatment	11.73%
History of Participating in Outpatient Mental Health Treatment	50.00%
History of Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitalization	12.24%
Currently Prescribed a Psychotropic Medication	60.91%
History of Having Took a Psychotropic Medication	66.84%
Currently Taking a Pain Medication	93.88%
Currently Undergoing Physical or Occupational Therapy	1.04%

78.71%
57.89%
75.33%
50.99%
35.75%
39.69%

## 577 Table 2.

578 Sample Means and SDs of MMPI-2-RF Scale Scores by Gender

	Men (n = 83)		Women (n = 117)				
	М	SD	М	SD	t (df)	<i>p</i> -value	Cohen's d
MMPI-2-RF Scale Scores							
Somatic Complaints	70	11	74	12	2.58 (198)	.011	.35
Malaise	76	9	77	9	.92 (198)	.358	.11
Gastrointestinal Complaints	61	16	66	18	1.88 (198)	.062	.29
Head Pain Complaints	63	9	67	11	3.05 (191.69)	.003	.39
Neurological Complaints	71	12	73	13	1.27 (198)	.207	.16
Cognitive Complaints	60	13	64	14	2.15 (198)	.033	.30

Note: MMPI-2-RF (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory – 2 – Restructured Form); n(sample size); M(Mean); SD (Standard
 Deviation);

## 581 Table 3.

### 582 Sample Means and SDs of External Criteria by Gender

	Men		Women				
	М	SD	М	SD	t (df)	<i>p</i> -value	Cohen's d
PDI Scale Score	41.97	19.25	44.75	14.61	1.01 (116.90)	.313	.17
MSPQ Scale Score	10.42	6.84	13.93	7.25	3.17 (169)	.002	.50
SCID Somatization Symptom Count	8.28	5.25	9.79	5.51	1.93 (196)	.055	.28

583

584 Note: Sample sizes differed between measures. For the PDI scale scores, data were available for 68 men and 102 women. For the MSPQ

585 scale scores, data were available for 69 men and 102 women. For SCID Somatization Symptom Count, data were available for 81 men

586 and 117 women. PDI (Pain Disability Index); MSPQ (Modified Somatic Perception Questionnaire); SCID (Structured Clinical

587 Interview for DSM-IV-TR); n(sample size); M(Mean); SD (Standard Deviation);

588

589 Table 4.

590

591 Correlations and Partial Correlations Between Minnesota Multiphasic

592 *Personality Inventory-2-Restructured Form Somatic/Cognitive Scale and External* 

593 Criteria

						Partial
		Partial		Partial	SCID-Based	Correlation
	PDI	Correlation	MSPQ	Correlation	Somatization Sx-	SCID-Based
		PDI		MSPQ	Total	Somatization Sx-
						Total
RC1	.28**	.27**	.62**	.60**	.35**	.33**
MLS	.48**	.48**	.33**	.32**	.20**	.20**
GIC	.10	.09	.45**	.43**	.27**	.25**
HPC	.22**	.21**	.49**	.46**	.28**	.26**
NUC	.30**	.30**	.44**	.43**	.28**	.27**
COG	.26**	.25**	.34**	.32**	.29**	.28**

594 *Note:* Partial correlation coefficients control for gender; PDI = Pain Disability Index;

595 MSPQ = Modified Somatic Perception Questionnaire; SCID = Structured Clinical

596 Interview for DSM-IV-TR; RC1 = Somatic Complaints; MLS = Malaise; GIC =

597 Gastrointestinal Complaints; HPC = Head Pain Complaints; NUC = Neurological
 598 Complaints; COG = Cognitive Complaints

599 \* p < .05. \*\* p < .01.

600 Table 5

601

602 **Differential Validity Analyses** 

603

604

Full and Prediction MMPI-2-Prediction Slope Bias Intercept Bias Full Model R<sup>2</sup> Criteria Model **RF** Scale Model  $\Delta R^2$  $\Delta R^2$  $\mathbb{R}^2$  $\Delta R^2$ PDI RC1 .080 .082 .002 --MLS .236 .004 .232 \_ \_ GIC .050 .053 .003 HPC .050 .053 .003 NUC .092 .120 .028 \_ COG .067 .071 .004 -**MSPQ** RC1 .386 .401 .015 \_ \_ MLS .107 .163 .056\*\* .012 .044\*\* GIC .237 .256 .019 -HPC .237 .256 .019 \_ -NUC .198 .235 .037\* .004 .033\*\* .040\* .039\*\* COG .118 .158 .002 SCID RC1 .120 .127 .007 \_ \_ MLS .042 .058 .016 \_ \_ GIC .077 .086 .009 \_ \_ HPC .077 .086 .009 NUC .079 .091 .012 \_ \_ COG .085 .103 .018

Note: \*p < .05; \*\*p < .01;  $R^2 .010 =$  Small Effect Size, .090 = Medium Effect Size, .250 =605 606 Large Effect Size