



The Development of the Auditory Processing Domains Questionnaire (APDQ)

Kiri Mealings, Brian O'Hara, and Harvey Dillon



Background

Listening skills are vital for young children to hear and learn in the classroom. Around 5% of children have difficulty processing speech despite having normal hearing thresholds. The aim of this study was to develop a screening questionnaire for auditory processing disorders compared to attention and language disorders.

Method

Participants

- 198 normal controls
- 20 students clinically diagnosed with an auditory processing disorder (APD)
- 40 students clinically diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- 10 students with a learning disability (LD)

Questionnaire

- 52 questions covering three scoring scales:
 - Auditory processing (31 questions)
 - Attention (10 questions)
 - Language (11 questions)

Procedure

- Parents rate frequency of competent performance on their child's different behaviours.

1

Your child pays attention well when spoken to alone...

Most times Often Sometimes Rarely

N/A

Back Forward

Results

Questionnaire Psychometrics

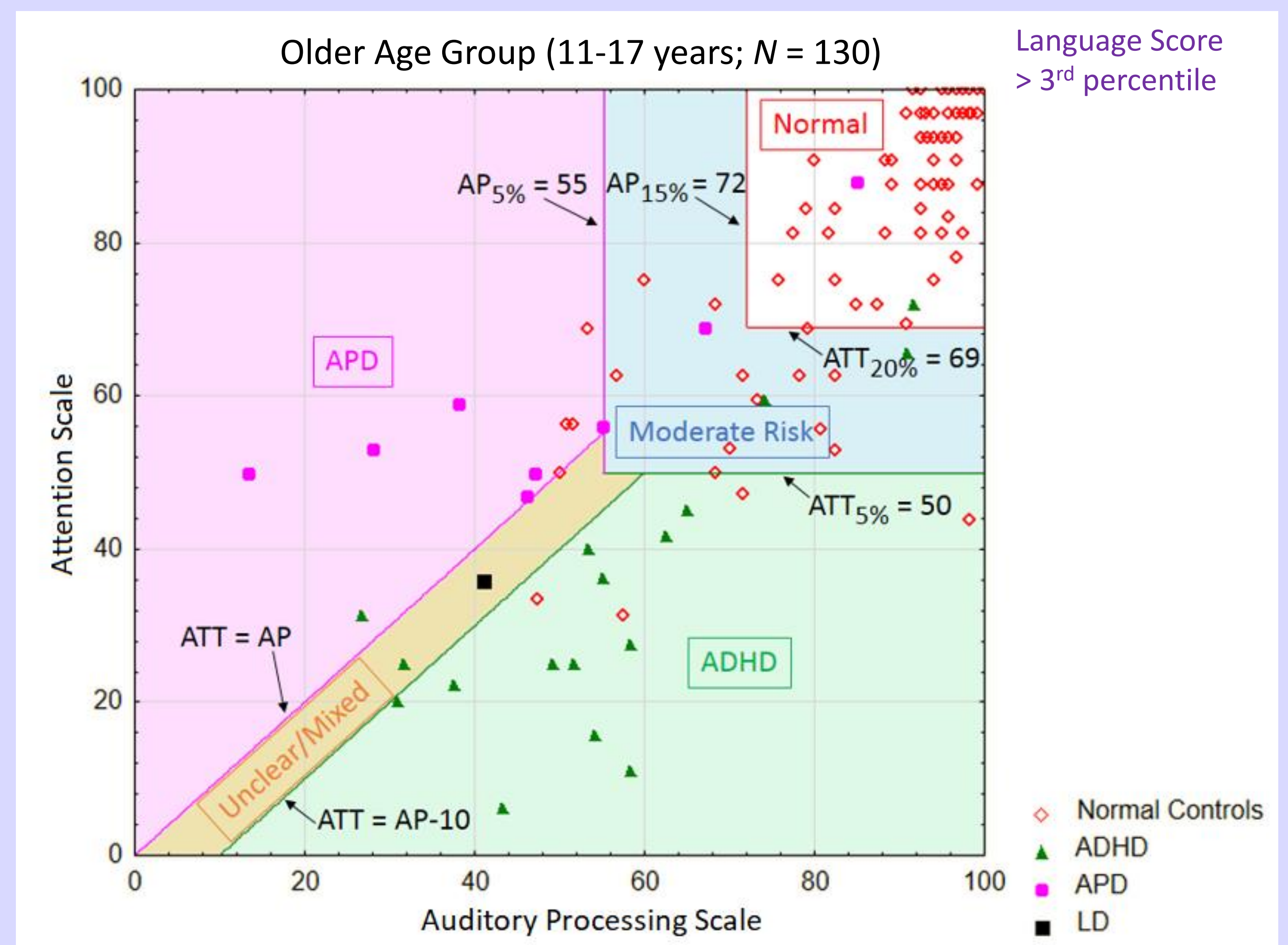
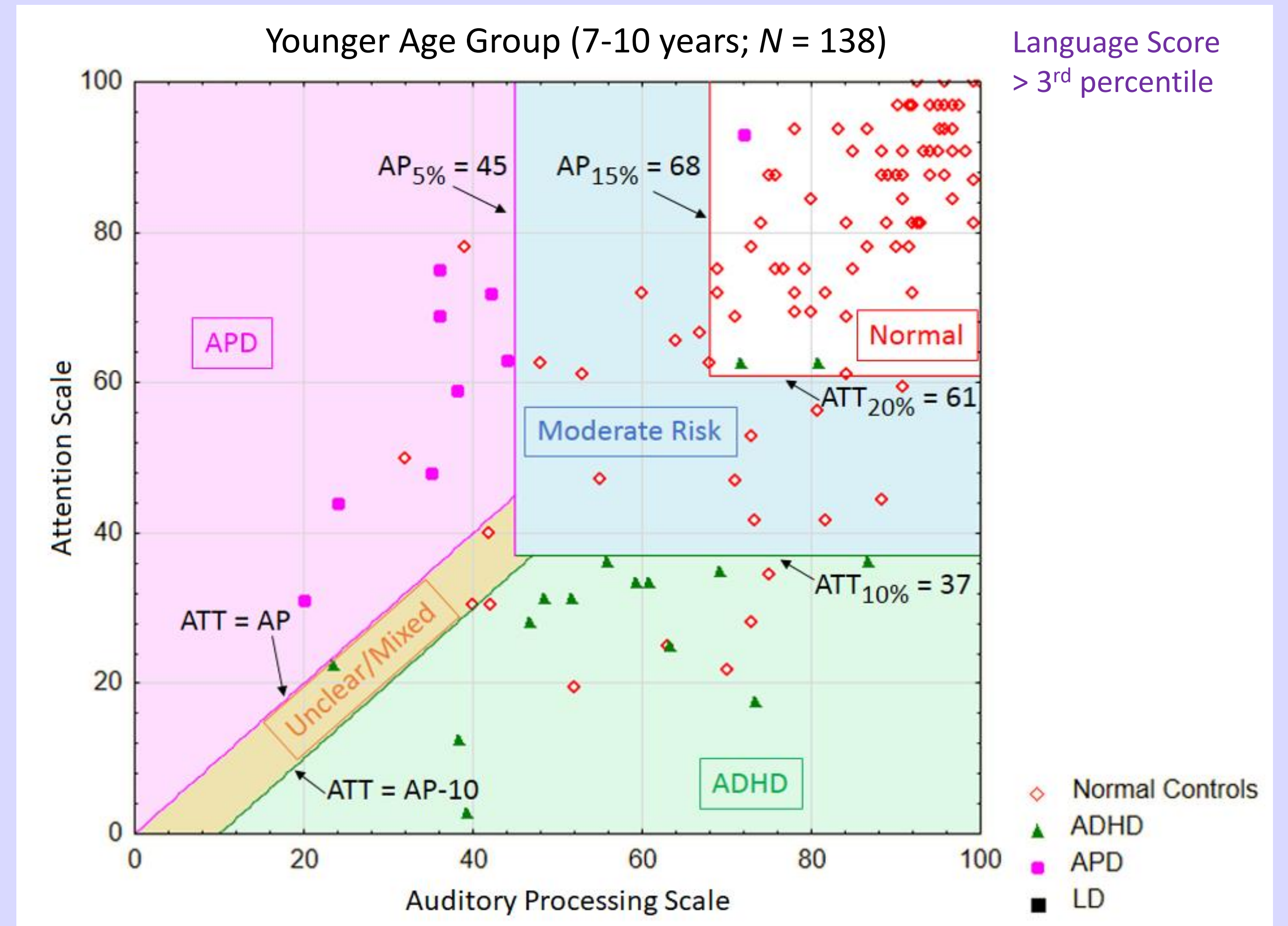
Factor analysis: Identified three components assessing auditory processing, language, and attention.

Regression model: Significant differences between normal and clinical groups on all scales ($p < 0.001$), and significant differences between clinical groups.

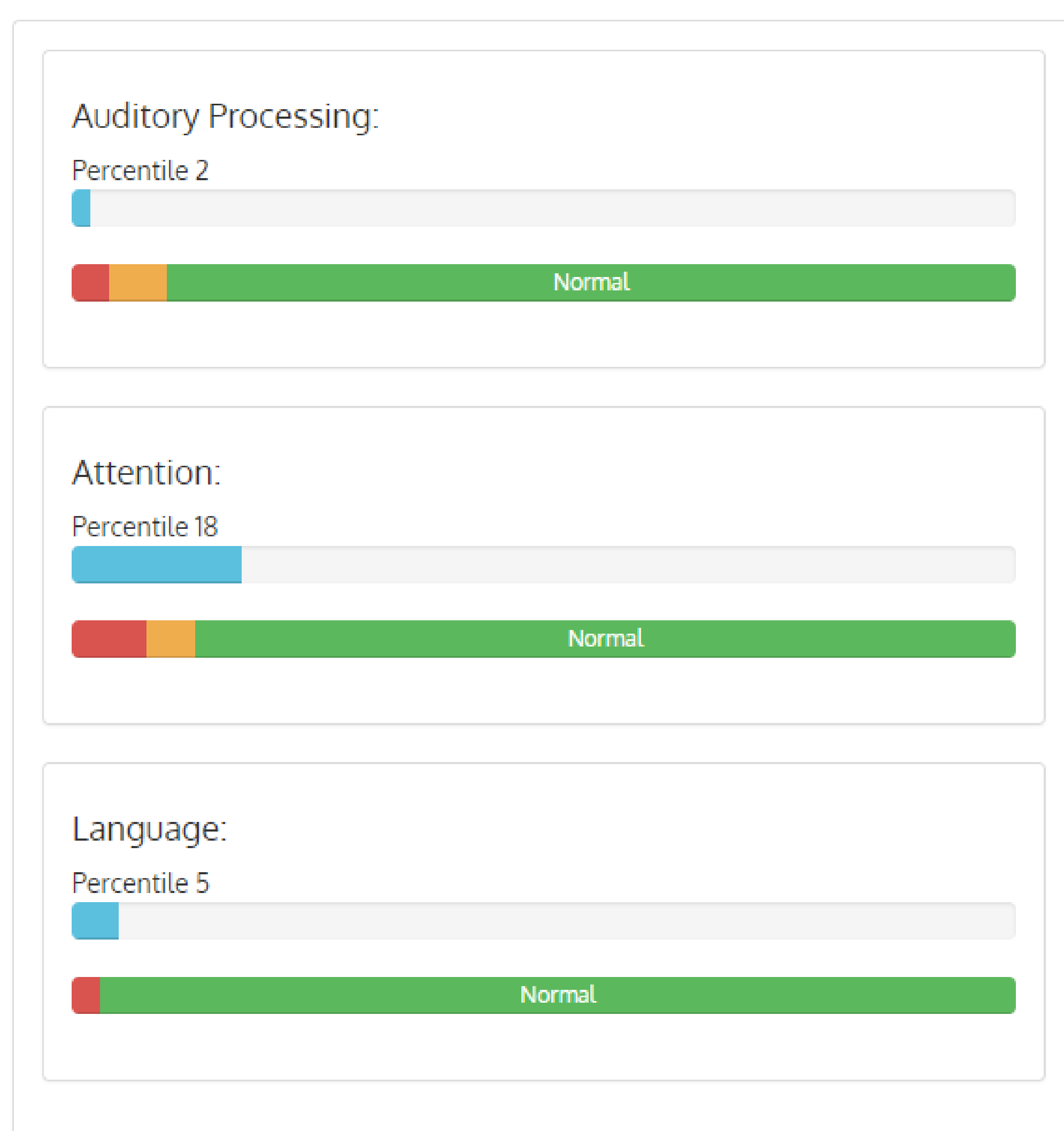
	AP p -value	ATT p -value	Lang p -value
NC vs. ADHD	< 0.001*	< 0.001*	< 0.001*
NC vs. APD	< 0.001*	< 0.001*	< 0.001*
NC vs. LD	< 0.001*	< 0.001*	< 0.001*
ADHD vs. APD	0.33	< 0.001*	0.99
ADHD vs. LD	0.01*	1.00	0.004*
APD vs. LD	0.35	0.03*	0.02*

Group differential analysis of scale scores: Inter-group differences at or above 75% sensitivity and specificity levels (mean = 89%).

Contact: kiri.mealings@nal.gov.au



Typical APD Profile



Conclusions

The APDQ is an effective screening questionnaire for auditory processing disorders with scale score patterns likely to help make appropriate clinical referrals. The 52-item questionnaire has recently been updated to a 50-item version. A 32-item version of the questionnaire for 4.5- to 7-year-olds is currently under development.