

ID

**IDENTIFY  
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
EARLIER**

AD

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# Detecting Alzheimer's disease: Stage-sensitive cognitive testing

## Selecting appropriate cognitive tools may increase the likelihood of an early and accurate diagnosis.<sup>1,2</sup>

Early awareness may allow for a range of patient care including financial planning, management of behavioral symptoms, and counseling to reduce the emotional burden.<sup>3</sup>

Brief, validated cognitive assessment tools for screening are recommended by the American Academy of Neurology Practice Guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

While no test represents a "gold standard," use of brief cognitive assessment tools with appropriate patients can aid in the early identification of Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or mild dementia stage.<sup>4</sup>

The sensitivity of a neuropsychological test indicates the likelihood of accurately detecting cognitive impairment. Sensitivity can be calculated for different stages of AD. MCI is the first symptomatic stage of AD. When MCI is suspected, you may wish to consider a test that is designed to be sensitive to MCI to help enhance diagnostic accuracy.<sup>5,6</sup>

## MCI- & DEMENTIA-SENSITIVE TEST EXAMPLES

### Patient



#### Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)<sup>7,8</sup>

- Designed based on tools commonly used in cognitive screening with the raw score adjusted for education
- 30 questions covering 6 domains
- ⌚ **Administration time: ~10 minutes**



#### Cognigram<sup>9,10</sup>

- Stimuli testing psychomotor function, attention, working memory, and visual learning
- Automated administration, scoring, and reporting
- ⌚ **Administration time: ~10-15 minutes**



#### Saint Louis University Mental Status Exam (SLUMS)<sup>4,11</sup>

- Educational bias is minimized
- Scoring similar to the MMSE\* with additional tasks
- ⌚ **Administration time: ~7 minutes**



#### CANTAB Mobile<sup>12,13</sup>

- Non-verbal test utilizing abstract stimuli
- Assesses visual associative learning and memory
- ⌚ **Administration time: ~10 minutes**

### Informant†



#### Quick Dementia Rating Systems (QDRS)<sup>14</sup>

- 10-item informant questionnaire
- Provides accurate staging without the need for trained staff
- ⌚ **Administration time: ~3-5 minutes**



#### AD8<sup>15</sup>

- Rates change in cognition and function
- Phone or in-person administration
- ⌚ **Administration time: ~3 minutes**

This is not a comprehensive list of tools for assessing cognitive function and is not intended to recommend any particular tool.

\*MMSE=Mini-Mental State Examination. MMSE is a registered trademark of Psychological Assessment Resources.

†Informants may be caregivers, family, friends, associates, or healthcare providers with knowledge of the patient's cognitive health.

## DEMENTIA-SENSITIVE TEST EXAMPLES

### Patient



#### Mini-Cog<sup>7</sup>

- Easy to administer to non-English speakers
- Less biased by low education and literacy than other tools

⌚ Administration time: ~3 minutes



#### MMSE<sup>7,16\*</sup>

- Commonly used in clinical research
- Prone to age, cultural, and educational bias; requiring score correction for these factors

⌚ Administration time: ~10 minutes

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\*MMSE is a registered trademark of Psychological Assessment Resources.

A regular appointment provides an opportunity to inquire about cognitive health and patient concerns.<sup>17</sup>  
Make early detection and diagnosis of AD a priority.

For more information on detecting and diagnosing early-stage AD, visit [IdentifyAlz.com](https://www.identifyalz.com)

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