


DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA IN THE OUTPATIENT SETTING

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

- Dr. Little has no relevant financial disclosures to report
- Dr. Little will not be discussing any off label or unapproved medications

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the session, participants will be able to...

- Define and distinguish dementia and mild cognitive impairment
- Describe the impact dementia has on the patient and caregiver
- Identify the most common types of dementing illnesses
- Successfully perform brief cognitive screens that can be used in daily clinical practice



BACKGROUND



- 1 in 3 elderly individuals develop some form of dementia
- 5.7 million Americans are **currently living with Alzheimer's** and this number is expected to rise to 14 million by the year 2050
- Between 2000 and 2015, deaths from heart dz declined by 11% but **deaths due to dementia have increased by 123%!!**
 - Dementia is the only cause of death in the top 10 causes of death in America that cannot be prevented, cured, or slowed
 - Nearly 1/2 of patients with dementia suffer from depression
 - Nearly 1/2 of caregivers also suffer from depression
 - This year (2018), dementia has led to an expenditure of \$277 billion in healthcare and caregiving costs



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION 2018 ALZHEIMER DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES REPORT

BACKGROUND: DEFINITION OF DEMENTIA

- **Memory impairment plus a decline in one or more cognitive domains**—learning ability, social function, visuo-spatial function, language, complex attention, executive functioning
- **Significant decline from previous abilities**
- **+Impairment in daily functioning**
- **Decline is progressive, disabling**
- Caused by damage to the brain



ARE THERE "NORMAL" CHANGES IN MEMORY WITH AGE?

- **Yes!!**
 - Slower recall of information, such as names
 - Increased effort needed to learn new tasks
 - Greater difficulty multi-tasking
 - Easier distractibility
 - Slower processing
- **But, dementia is NOT NORMAL** in the older adult



BACKGROUND

NOT ALL DEMENTIA IS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

DEMENTIA
An "umbrella" term used to describe a range of symptoms associated with cognitive impairment.

- ALZHEIMER'S 50%-75%
- VASCULAR 20%-30%
- LEWY BODIES 10%-25%
- FRONTOTEMPORAL 10%-15%

MIXED DEMENTIA = >1 NEUROPATHOLOGY - PREVALENCE UNKNOWN

MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT (MCI)

- Memory impairment significant enough to be noticeable to family and/or individual, but not significant enough to interfere with daily activities
- Occurs in 10-20% of adults >65
- Established risk factor for the development of Alzheimer's Disease
 - 30% of those w/ MCI progress to Alzheimer's each year (70% of people with MCI don't progress)

Figure 1: Characteristics of Mild Cognitive Impairment¹

3 STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESSION OF DEMENTIA

Normal Aging Everyone experiences slight cognitive changes during aging

Preclinical

- Silent phase: brain changes without measurable symptoms
- Individual may notice changes, but not detectable on tests
- "A stage where the patient knows, but the doctor doesn't"

MCI

- Cognitive changes are of concern to individual and/or family
- One or more cognitive domains impaired significantly
- Preserved activities of daily living

Dementia

- Cognitive impairment severe enough to interfere with everyday abilities

Stages: Mild, Moderate, Moderately Severe, Severe

Y-axis: Cognitive Decline (downward arrow)
X-axis: Time (Years) (rightward arrow)

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS?

- Dementia dx changes in our approach with the patient:
 - Do caregivers need to be present during office visits or called to be updated after visits?
 - Should written and verbal instructions be provided?
 - Is there a pattern to repeat hospitalizations, ER visits, etc. that may need to be addressed → is the pt receiving enough oversight at home?
 - Are there signs of caregiver burnout that we can assist with?
 - What is the overall life expectancy and how does seeing the "big" picture change our management?

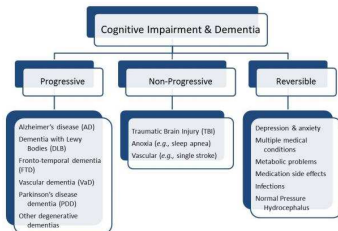


NOW ON TO MAKING THE DIAGNOSIS...

DIAGNOSIS

Goals:

- Rule out reversible causes!
- Distinguish between the various types of dementing illnesses
- Build a comprehensive treatment plan (bio-psycho-social care) tailored to the individual



DIAGNOSIS

- Complete medical history
 - Physical and neurological examinations
 - "Memory Test" → Saint Louis University Mental Status Examination (SLUMs) or Rapid Cognitive Screen (RCS)
 - Neuroimaging
 - Laboratory tests
 - Neuropsychological assessment (optional)
- **At the present time, there is no single diagnostic test for detecting mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's Disease or other types of dementia**

REVERSIBLE CAUSES OF MCI/DEMENTIA

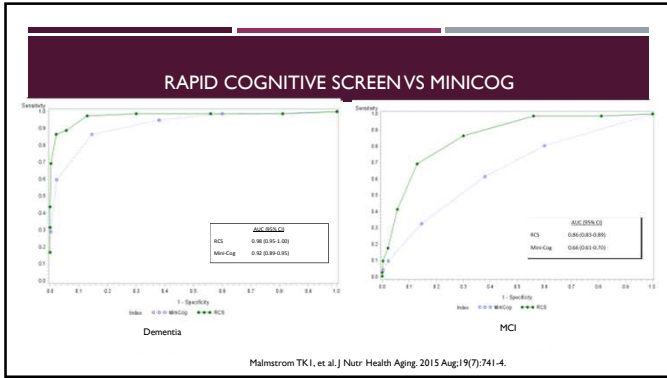
- D**rugs
 - E** motional (depression)
 - M** etabolic (hypothyroidism, B12)
 - E** yes and ears (sensory isolation)
 - N** ormal Pressure Hydrocephalus (ataxia, incontinence, and dementia)
 - T** umor or other space-occupying lesion
 - I** nfection (syphilis, chronic infections)
 - A** trial fibrillation/Alcoholism
 - S** leep Apnea
- ~10 % of all Dementias



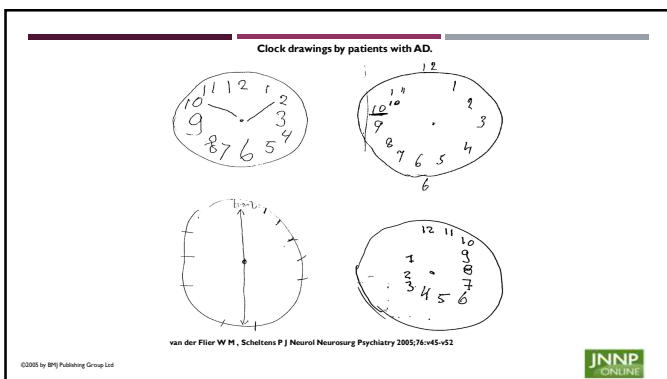
DETECTING MCI

Which of the following dementia screening tools can also be used to screen for MCI?

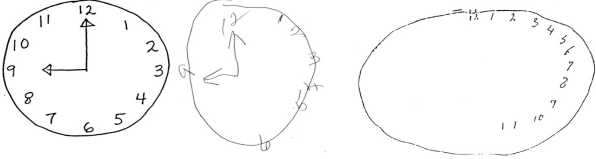
1. Mini Mental Status Examination (MMSE)
2. Saint Louis University Mental Status Examination (SLUMS)
3. Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)
4. Mini-Cog Test
5. Rapid Cognitive Screen (RCS)
6. All of the Above



TIME TO DRAW A CLOCK!





CLOCK DRAWINGS BY PATIENTS WITH UNILATERAL NEGLECT



3 REASONS TO DO A RAPID COGNITIVE SCREEN (RCS)

- It's fast
- It's free – no copyright
- It detects mild cognitive impairment (MCI)



WHY IS AN EARLY DIAGNOSIS IMPERATIVE?

- Early diagnosis of dementia is important because:
 - It can identify any potentially reversible or treatable causes and these can be corrected before permanent damage to brain is done
 - It can facilitate planning for patients and families
 - Includes naming POA, getting finances "in order," discussion of medical preferences
 - Can address critical safety issues such as driving and living alone before a crisis occurs
 - It can explain why the patient acts and thinks "different" and allow families to place blame on the disease process and not the patient themselves

MAIN TYPES OF DEMENTIA

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, VASCULAR DISEASE, LEWY BODY DEMENTIA, PARKINSON'S DISEASE WITH DEMENTIA, FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA, HIPPOCAMPAL SCLEROSIS OF AGING, PRIMARY TAUOPATHY

COMMON DEMENTIAS IN OLDER PERSONS


- Hippocampal sclerosis of aging
- Primary age-related tauopathy (PART)
- Vascular dementia
- Lewy body dementia
 - Other Parkinsonian dementias
- Dementia of Diabetes
- Alzheimer's disease

Nelson PTI, et al. Brain. 2011 May;134(Pt. 5):1506-18.

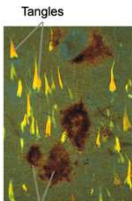
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

- **What causes Alzheimer's Disease?**
 - Not fully understood yet
 - Develops as a result of **complex series of events** that take place in the brain **over many years**
 - Genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors contribute
 - **Caused by:**
 - Accumulation of "plaques" and "tangles"
 - Neurotransmitter deficits
 - Inflammation
 - Early-onset form is rare (1-2%) and occurs before the age of 60
 - Late-onset form develops after the age of 60

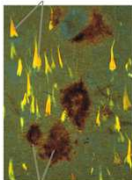
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



- History:
 - Named in 1901 by German psychiatrist **Alois Alzheimer**
- Pathophysiology:
 - Caused by **plaques and tangles**
 - Plaques occur **outside of nerve cells** and are made of an abnormal protein fragment called **amyloid beta**
 - Neurofibrillary tangles** occur **inside nerve cells** and are made of **tau protein**
 - This abnormal protein accumulation also leads to **increased inflammation and cellular death**, causing more damage



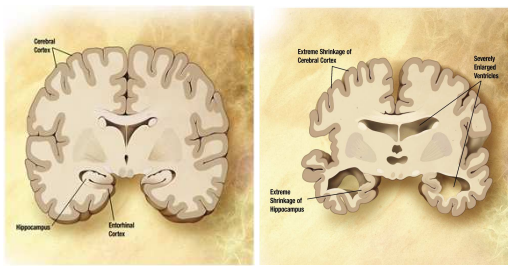
Tangles



Plaques

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE





Central Cortex

Hippocampus

Entorhinal Cortex

Extreme Shrinkage of Central Cortex

Severely Enlarged Ventricles

Extreme Shrinkage of Hippocampus

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Brain with A.D. Normally Aged Brain

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Amyloid Continuum

Normal	Pre-Clinical Stage	Mild Cognitive Impairment	Alzheimer's Disease
No pathological lesions	First pathological lesions	Mild pathology	Intense pathology
No symptoms	No symptoms	Memory Impairment	Dementia

Disease progression / Pathological continuum →

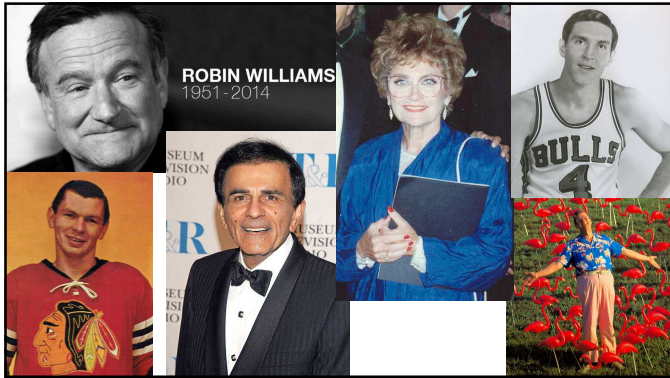
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: STAGES

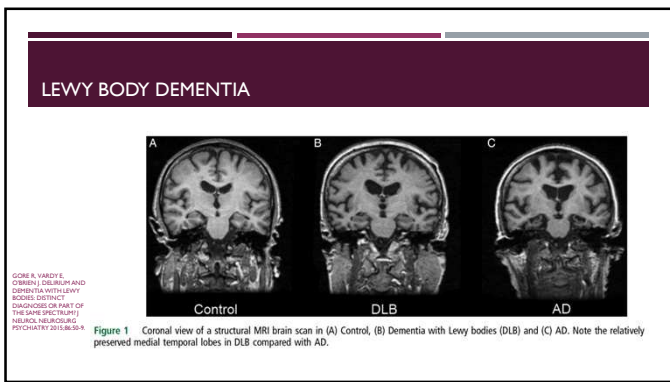
- Gradual onset with progressive decline
- Motor symptoms are rare early in disease course but develop later on

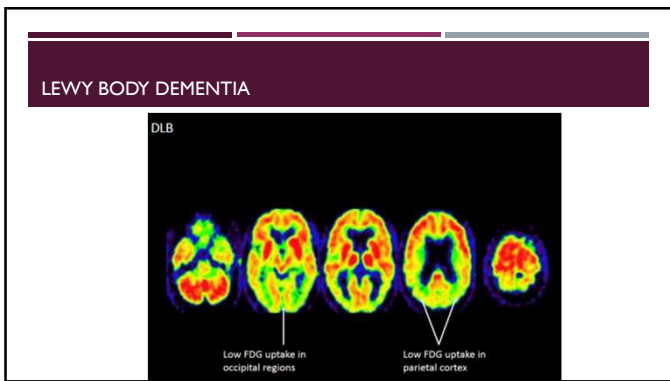
FIGURE: STAGES OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

MILD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lasts 2 to 4 years • Marked by minor memory loss as well as difficulty learning and remembering new information • Long term memory and some reasoning remain intact • Patients may be aware of their decline and hide it well
MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lasts 2 to 10 years • Patients experience withdrawal, confusion, increasing difficulty in self-care and daily tasks, poor judgment, and difficulty communicating • Behavioral changes often include anger, anxiety, frustration, and restlessness • Cognitive functions become increasingly memory
SEVERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually lasts 1 to 3 years • Patients are completely incontinent, withdraw into themselves, and will not eat unless fed • Patients may not speak and do not recognize people, even family members • Loss of bodily function control (eg. swallowing, bladder, bowel) • Violent episodes and aggression are common

Adapted from references 32, 33, and 35.







PARKINSON'S DISEASE WITH DEMENTIA

- Parkinson's Disease is a **chronic, progressive neurological condition**
- **Symptoms:** tremors, muscle stiffness, masked faces, and slow, shuffling gait
- Most people with Parkinson's **will eventually develop dementia**
 - Memory loss is accompanied by depression, anxiety, and hallucinations
 - Often have marked impairment in visual-spatial functioning, causing earlier concern with driving

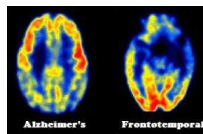


PARKINSON'S DISEASE WITH DEMENTIA

- Parkinson's disease with dementia is very similar to Lewy Body Dementia and the two can be hard to tell apart at later stages
- **Timing differentiates:**
 - Lewy Body → memory impairment precedes or accompanies motor symptoms
 - Parkinson's disease with dementia → Motor symptoms precede memory impairment by >1 year, but usually by many years

FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA (FTD)


- AKA "Pick's Disease"
- Results from **progressive degeneration of frontal and temporal lobes**
- **Affects personality**, causing a **decline in social skills** and inability to understand/read another's emotions
- Can affect **language** and **motor skills**
- Behavior and personality changes manifest long before memory loss
- Occurs at a **younger age** and is more common than Alzheimer's in people <60



NOW A QUICK WORD ON TREATMENT...

TREATMENT

- Goal of treatment is to enhance quality of life and maximize functional performance by improving cognition, mood, and behavior



TREATMENT

- There are **no proven cures or disease-slowing treatments**
- Goal is to **maximize cognitive abilities** for as long as possible (improve symptoms)
- Medications only work in a small subset of patients and on average improve memory test scores by 1-2 points
- There are **4 FDA approved medications**:
 - Donepezil (Aricept)
 - Rivastigmine (Exelon)
 - Galantamine (Razadyne)
 - Memantine (Namenda)

Generic Name	Brand Name	Dosage Form	Mechanism	Starting Dosage	Goal Dosage
Donepezil	Aricept	IR tablet ODT	Cholinesterase inhibitor	5 mg/day	10 mg/day
Galantamine	Razadyne	IR tablet ER tablet	Cholinesterase inhibitor	4 mg bid or 8 mg/day	8 mg/day (IR) 16-24 mg/day (ER)
Memantine	Namenda	IR tablet	NMDA inhibitor	5 mg/day	10 mg bid
Rivastigmine	Exelon	Patch IR capsules Oral solution	Cholinesterase inhibitor	4.6 mg per 24 h 1.5 mg bid	9.5 mg per 24 h 6 mg bid

IR immediate release; ODT orally disintegrating tablet; ER extended release; NMDA, N-methyl-D-aspartate (glutamate).

SO IF MEDICATIONS DON'T REALLY WORK, WHAT TREATMENTS CAN WE OFFER?

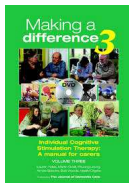
EXERCISE AND DEMENTIA

- Exercise has been shown to improve quality of life for all stages of Dementia and Alzheimer's
- It likely works better than our best medications in improving symptoms and behavioral issues
 - Can reduce risk of stroke and improve high blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol, all of which are risk factors for vascular dementia
 - Improved physical fitness can allow for longer independence
 - Reduces risk of falls
 - Improves mood
 - Improves sleep



COGNITIVE STIMULATION THERAPY (CST)

- Organized group therapy program for those w/ mild to moderate dementia
- Uses a structured approach to focus on:
 - Reminiscence
 - Orientation
 - Mental stimulation
- Not only enhances cognitive function, but has been shown to improve quality of life for both patient and caregiver
- Typically structured as a 14 session course which meets 2x/weekly
 - Can take place in nursing home, adult day centers, assisted living, or home




CARDINALS
REMINISCENCE LEAGUE




ALZHEIMER'S PATIENT
TALKING BASEBALL HELPS FAMILIES DEALING WITH ALZHEIMER'S
WHITE HOUSE EMPLOYEE
KILLER QUARTER CRYSTAL
6 ON YOUR SIDE

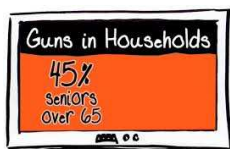

SAFE RETURN IDENTIFICATION



Bracelet Bracelet Back Necklace

CALL 1-800-877-3883 USA
SUPPORT SERVICES
ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS
CALL BRIBED-ARLEY
ALZHEIMER'S

GUNS AND DEMENTIA DON'T MIX...

THANKS!