

Memory testing in dementia: How much is enough?

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Abstract

Analyzed the diagnostic efficacy of 8 memory tests for the detection of mild dementia. 37 patients with mild dementia (mean age 74.24 yrs) and 37 healthy controls were given the following memory measures: Word List Acquisition and Recall, Wechsler Memory Scale-Revised (WMS-R) Logical Memory I and II, WMS-R Visual Reproduction I and II, Neurobehavioral Cognitive Status Examination (NCSE), and Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE). Analyses of the memory measures and the MMSE total score show each to have moderate predictive power in differentiating between patients with mild dementia and controls. When these instruments were combined in a logistic regression analysis, 3 of them had substantial predictive power. Together, the Word List Acquisition, WMS-R Logical Memory II, and WMS-R Visual Reproduction II were 97.26% accurate in distinguishing these 2 groups. The Word List Acquisition is a brief test that alone had high accuracy (92%). The authors conclude that these memory tests are highly useful in the diagnosis of mild dementia.