Dementia CareCalifornia





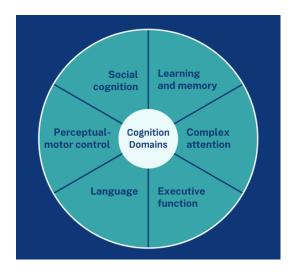
Getting a History for Dementia

Dig deeper into cognitive and functional symptoms

Cognition

For cognitive domains, get information about:

- the trajectory and progression of symptoms (have symptoms been getting worse? more noticeable?)
- the severity of the symptoms (how different from prior functioning are these symptoms?)





See the next page for example questions you can ask for each domain.

Function

For functional symptoms, use a <u>worksheet</u> or list of functional abilities:

- determine the trajectory of functional decline (who helps them with which ADLs and IADLs? for how long? have they needed more help over time?)
- attempt to discern for which functional tasks they need more support because of cognitive changes, not physical limitations



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Getting a History for Dementia

Example questions for cognitive domains

Memory and Learning

- "Have you noticed any changes in your ability to remember recent events or conversations?"
- "Do you find yourself repeating questions or stories in the same day?"

Behavior (Social cognition)

- "Have you or others noticed any changes in your mood or personality?"
- "Are you experiencing new difficulties with managing daily activities or social interactions due to changes in your thinking or behavior?"

Executive Function

- "Have you had new difficulty planning or organizing tasks, such as managing finances or following a recipe?"
- "Do you find it harder to solve problems or make decisions than you used to?"

Language

- "Have you noticed trouble finding the right words during conversation?"
- "Do you have difficulty understanding what others are saying, especially in group settings?"

Visuospatial (Perceptual-Motor Control)

- "Have you become lost in familiar places?
- "Do you have new difficulty judging distances?

Attention

- "Do you find it harder to concentrate on tasks or conversations?"
- "Have you noticed increased difficulty keeping track of what you are doing when interrupted?"

Other: ask about changes in sleep patterns

References: JAMA 2019; JAMA 2020; JAMA 2020; Stroke. 2021; Am Fam Physician 2018

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