



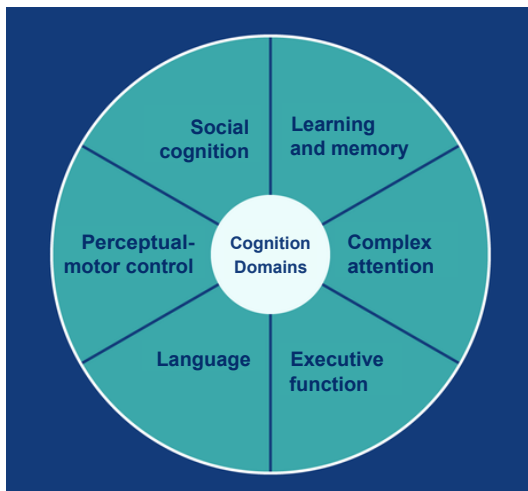
Getting a History for Dementia

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?)

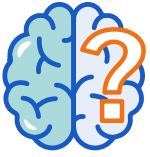


See the next page for example questions you can ask for each domain.

Function

For functional symptoms, use a worksheet 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



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](#)