

# What Is A Neuropsychological Assessment?

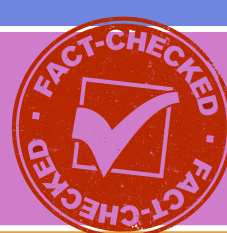
- Can identify the onset and type of mild cognitive impairment and dementia so that early intervention can occur
- Can identify cognitive deficits, predict functional outcomes, and monitor patient recovery after acquired brain injuries
- Can assist in the diagnosis and management of neurodevelopmental conditions
- Can provide therapeutic interventions in the form of cognitive rehabilitation, cognitive remediation and counselling/psychoeducation
- Useful in determining decision-making capacity



## Common Goals of Neuropsychological Evaluations

- Characterise cognitive and behavioral function
- Prioritise differential diagnoses
- Plan and monitor treatment
- Address legal, functional, or other issues
- Provide specialised cognitive rehabilitation

## Wonder-facts!



### Fact 1.

Neuropsychological Assessments can detect early cognitive changes with a 90% accuracy

90%

### Fact 2.

>80% of primary care physicians reported that referral questions were satisfactorily answered

80%

### Fact 3.

Approximately 90% agreed with the diagnostic impressions and treatment recommendations

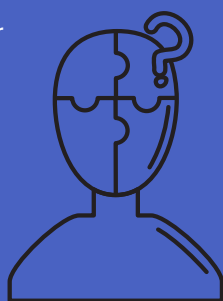
90%

## And what about cognitive screens?

- Neuropsychological tests are different in purpose and scope from cognitive screening tests
- Screening tests usually take a short time to complete and are designed to screen for general cognitive impairment that may warrant a more comprehensive workup
- Although screening tests can indicate problems in general cognitive functioning, they have poor ability to assess for deficits in specific cognitive domains and are not diagnostic
- Research shows that screening test items weakly correlate with scores in the same cognitive domains on neuropsychological testing
- Neuropsychological testing comprehensively examines multiple cognitive domains to provide a detailed assessment of the nature and severity of cognitive impairments
- This information contributes significantly when determining primary and secondary diagnoses and planning an individualised rehabilitation/treatment plan

### Most frequently referred clinical conditions

- Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
- Brain tumor
- Dementia
- Neurodevelopmental disorders
- Seizure disorder
- Stroke
- Traumatic brain injury
- Other medical or neurologic condition



### Common primary care referral questions

- Document functional limitations
- Establish baseline cognitive functioning
- Establish or confirm diagnosis
- Examine competency or other issues that have legal complications
- Provide second opinion
- Provide treatment recommendations