

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS

PATIENT EDUCATION SERIES BY GIPS HOSPITAL



NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS

WECHSLER MEMORY SCALE

PGI BATTERY OF BRAIN DYSFUNCTION

BENDER GESTALT TEST (BGT)

PGI MEMORY SCALE

What are Neuropsychological Tests ?

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Neuropsychological tests are specifically designed tasks used to measure a psychological function known to be linked to a particular brain structure or pathway.

Neuropsychological tests are designed to examine a variety of cognitive abilities, including speed of information processing, attention, memory, language, and executive functions, which are necessary for goal-directed behaviour. By testing a range of cognitive abilities and examining patterns of performance in different cognitive areas.

Neuropsychological testing is an important component of the assessment and treatment of traumatic brain

injury, dementia , neurological conditions, and psychiatric disorders. Neuropsychological testing is also an important tool for examining the effects of toxic substances and medical conditions on brain functioning.



1. Intelligence – A very general mental capability that, among other things, involves the ability to reason, plan, solve problems, think abstractly, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly and learn from experience. It is not merely book learning, a narrow academic skill, or test-taking smarts. Rather, it reflects a broader and deeper capability for comprehending our surroundings—“catching on,” “making sense” of things, or “figuring out” what to do.

Types of Tests

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2. Memory– Memory is a very broad function which includes several distinct abilities, all of which can be selectively impaired and require individual testing. There is disagreement as to the number of memory systems, depending on the psychological perspective taken. From a clinical perspective, a view of five distinct types of memory is in most cases sufficient. Semantic memory and episodic memory (collectively called declarative memory or explicit memory); procedural memory and priming or perceptual learning (collectively called non-declarative memory or implicit memory) all four of which are long term memory systems; and working memory or short term memory. Semantic memory is memory for facts, episodic memory is autobiographical memory, procedural memory is memory for the performance of skills, priming is memory facilitated by prior exposure to a stimulus and working memory is a form of short term memory for information manipulation.





PHOTO BY MARTIN R. SMITH

3. Language – Language functions include speech, reading and writing, all of which can be selectively impaired.
4. Executive function – Executive functions are various cognitive processes and sub-processes. The executive functions include: problem solving, planning, organizational skills, selective attention, inhibitory control and some aspects of short term memory.

Neuropsychological Tests

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5. Visuospatial – Neuropsychological tests of visuospatial function the areas of visual perception, visual construction and visual integration.
6. Dementia specific– Dementia testing is often done by way of testing the cognitive functions that are most often impaired by the disease e.g. memory, orientation, language and problem solving..

