

MiniCog

The Mini-Cog screen combines an uncued 3 item recall test with a Clock Drawing Test (CDT) that serves as the recall distractor. The Mini-Cog can be administered in approximately 3 min., requires no special equipment, and is less influenced by level of education or language differences than many other screens.

The Mini-Cog is the preferred outpatient cognitive screening tool.

Why?

It has the highest sensitivity of all screening tools, easiest to administer, and most time efficient. The following chart demonstrates its sensitivity (76%) is higher than the MMSE or Clock Draw Test (CDT) alone but can be performed in much less time than MMSE. (Recall; for any screening test you want a high sensitivity and are not as concerned as much about specificity, as you want to have a test that infrequently misses a case, and occasionally will have false positives.) Many new clinicians aren't comfortable interpreting the clock. We will teach you how to interpret it below.

| Sensitivity & Specificity for Dementia Screening | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| | Sensitivity | Specificity | Predicted time to complete test |
| Mini-Cog | 76% | 89% | 2-4 min. |
| Clock | 59% | 90% | 1-2 min. |
| MMSE 24 cutpoint | 71% | 94% | 5-12 min. |

Borison S. JAGS 51:1451-1454, 2003

ADMINISTRATION

3 Item Recall-Register Phase

1. Get patient's attention
2. Instruct patient to listen carefully and repeat back the 3 words.(apple, table, penny is commonly used). You may present the words up to three times if necessary for them to initially recall the words.
- 3 Also tell the patient to remember the words as you will ask them what they were in approximately 3 min.

Clock Drawing Test

1. Using blank piece of paper or one with a circle drawn on it, ask the patient to draw the face of a clock and fill in all the numbers.
2. After the numbers have been added, asked the patient to draw the hands to read a specific time (example 11: 10, or 8: 20 are commonly used)-The goal is to use a complex time that requires hands to go on opposite sides of the face of the clock. You can repeat these instructions but no additional instructions or hints are allowed. If the patient cannot complete the CDT in 3 min. or less, they fail and move onto the next step.

3item recall-recall phase

Ask the patient to repeat the previously presented words. (You must score this step even if the patient was not able to repeat the three words in step one)

To print out form to assist performance of **MiniCog** click [HERE](#)

SCORING;

3item recall; give one point for each recall word after the CDT

CDT;

The CDT is considered normal if;

-all numbers are depicted once each, in correct sequence and positioned appropriately around the circle
= 1 point

-The hands reasonably displayed the requested time = 1 point

Total scoring of Mini-Cog;

-2 points for a normal CDT, (one point for numbers placed correctly and 1 point hands placed correctly).

(Do not count equal hand length as an error),

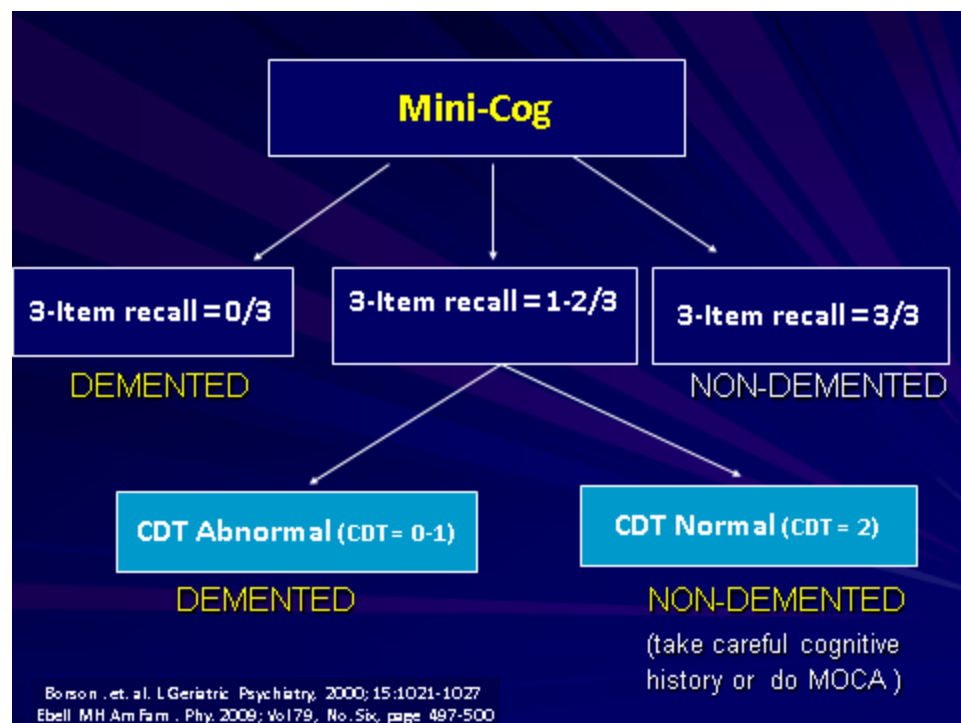
0 points for an total abnormal CDT.

Final step; add the 3 item recall and the CDT scores together to get a total Mini-Cog score

Interpretation

-see diagram below , but basically it breaks down to:

| Total Mini-Cog score | Interpretation |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0-2 | Positive screen for dementia |
| 3-5 | Negative screen for dementia |



THE MINI-COG

1. Instruct the patient to listen carefully and repeat the following

APPLE

TABLE

PENNY

2. Administer the Clock Drawing Test

3. Ask the patient to repeat the three words given previously

Scoring

Number of correct items recalled _____ [if 3 then negative screen. **STOP**]

If answer is 1- 2

Is CDT abnormal? NO YES

If No, then negative screen

If yes, then screen positive for cognitive impairment

Pt. Name: _____DOB:_____

Date: _____

Instructions

Inside the circle draw the hours of a clock as if a child would draw them. Place the hands of the clock to represent the time “forty five minutes past ten o’ clock”

