

Neuropsychological Evaluation

Information for patients and families

Read this information to learn:

- what a neuropsychological evaluation is
- why you would have one
- what to expect
- what happens to the results



What is a neuropsychological evaluation?

A neuropsychological evaluation assesses or checks your thinking skills. Your thinking skills include things like:

- using your memory
- concentrating
- solving problems

During this evaluation, you will do different tests of brain function. These tests will check for strengths or weakness in your thinking skills.

Why would I need to have one?

The results of this evaluation give your doctor information. The results can help your doctor decide if any problems you have are because of brain disease or dysfunction (brain not working normally).

The results may help your doctor to:

- decide what the problem is
- make decisions about your treatment (for example: surgery for Epilepsy or Parkinson's Disease)
- suggest ways to make up for your cognitive (thinking) difficulties

Who will do the evaluation?

A neuropsychologist specially trained in this area will watch over the evaluation. Their job is to try to understand how your brain works and how it affects your:

- behaviour
- functioning in day-to-day activities
- thinking ability

Someone who is trained to give the tests may also be there to help the neuropsychologist. The neuropsychologist will then look carefully at all of the results.

What can I expect?

During the evaluation, you will do things like:

- answer questions
- copy or write things down
- use your memory

These kinds of thinking tests will check how well you:

- remember things
- understand things
- problem solve
- concentrate
- use language

The evaluation will not check your physical health. Instead our tests involve interacting with the examiner and materials, which could be drawings and puzzles, for example.

It will take time to get all of this information about your thinking skills. The evaluation may take up to 6 hours to complete, including a lunch break and other breaks you may need. It may be done in 1 day or over 2 days.

What happens to the results?

Your results will be compared to the results of other people who:

- don't have problems with their thinking skills
- are the same age
- have the same or similar level of education

Your results will also be compared with any neuropsychological evaluation you may have had before.

Your neuropsychologist will contact you to arrange a follow-up appointment a few weeks after your evaluation. During this appointment, they will talk to you about your results in person or over the phone or video conference. You may find it helpful to bring a friend or family member for that appointment.

The neuropsychologist will also write a report about your results and it will be posted to your electronic chart, available to your health care team and to you through the myUHN Patient Portal.

To learn more about myUHN Patient Portal, visit:

Website: www.uhn.ca/PatientsFamilies/myUHN

Email: myUHN@uhn.ca

Phone: 416 340 3777

Privacy

We keep all of the results and information that we get from your evaluation private. We will send the information to your doctor. We will not give it to anyone outside of your health care team without your written permission.

There are some rare cases when this information is shared with others. The neuropsychologist will discuss this with you at your appointment.



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