Instructions for the Mini-Cog Test

Administration

The Mini-Cog test is a 3-minute instrument to screen for cognitive impairment in older adults in the primary care setting. The Mini-Cog uses a three-item recall test for memory and a simply scored clock-drawing test (CDT). The latter serves as an “informative distractor,” helping to clarify scores when the memory recall score is intermediate. The Mini-Cog was as effective as or better than established screening tests in both an epidemiologic survey in a mainstream sample and a multi-ethnic, multilingual population comprising many individuals of low socioeconomic status and education level. In comparative tests, the Mini-Cog was at least twice as fast as the Mini-Mental State Examination. The Mini-Cog is less affected by subject ethnicity, language, and education, and can detect a variety of different dementias. Moreover, the Mini-Cog detects many people with mild cognitive impairment (cognitive impairment too mild to meet diagnostic criteria for dementia).

Scoring (see figure 1)

1 point for each recalled word

Score clock drawing as Normal (the patient places the correct time and the clock appears grossly normal) or Abnormal

Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Positive for cognitive impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td><strong>Abnormal</strong> CDT then positive for cognitive impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td><strong>Normal</strong> CDT then negative for cognitive impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Negative screen for dementia (no need to score CDT)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Figure 1. The Mini-Cog scoring algorithm. The Mini-Cog uses a three-item recall test for memory and the intuitive clock-drawing test. The latter serves as an “informative distractor,” helping to clarify scores when the memory recall score is intermediate.

Reference
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”

**Instrucciones**
Dentro del circulo dibuje las horas del reloj como si lo haria un niño.
Ponga las manos del reloj para representar el tiempo “cuarenta y cinco minutos despues de las diez”
The MINI-COG

1. Instruct the patient to listen carefully and repeat the following
   ` APPLE WATCH PENNY
   MANZANA RELOJ PESETA

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