

# Learning Objectives

MedBridge

*Functional Cognition Part 1: Impairment & Dementia*

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## Course Objectives

- Summarize common cognitive issues related to aging and pathologies resulting in impaired cognition.
- Understand the clinical implications and imperative of treating patients at risk for falls
- Review the impact of cognitive changes on safety
- Review components of a cognitive screening and evaluation for the older adult.
- Summarize interventions on cognition in the older adult including Beck, Toglia, and Allen models of care for cognitive impairment
- Review elements of a home and community screening and evaluation to determine needs for an older adult who wants to remain in their home.
- Summarize resources available and assist an older adult with cognitive impairment who wants to remain in their home.
- Understand and integrate outcome research studies for screening, evaluation, and development of individual and group exercise programs.

## Chapter 1: Mild Cognitive Impairment & Reversible Dementia

- Summarize common cognitive issues related to aging and pathologies resulting in impaired cognition.
- List the central neurological changes with aging
- Differentiate between typical aging, mild cognitive impairment, and confusion/delirium as it relates to memory and cognition
- List the criteria for mild cognitive impairment
- List the toxic and metabolic causes of delirium/confusion
- Appreciate the varied causes of reversible dementia that mimic Alzheimer's disease
- Understand the components of the Mini Mental State Exam by way of patient demonstration
- Understand the varied functional domains of cognition, including attention/vigilance, working memory, verbal and visual learning, reasoning and problem solving, speed of processing, and social cognition

## Chapter 2: Pathological Manifestation of the Aging Brain

- Review components of a cognitive screening and evaluation for the older adult.
- Identify between the different types of dementias and their presentations
- Understand the features of genuine loss of memory and self-reported loss of memory

- Understand the general features of dementia, and the two key principles of this disorder
- List the various screening tests, both for cognition and balance, that can be used to assess the older adult with suspected or actual cognitive decline
- Differentiate the various types of dementias: cortical, subcortical, progressive, primary, and secondary.
- Appreciate the differences between cortical and sub-cortical dementia
- Understand the components of the vascular dementia, including multi-infarct dementia
- Appreciate the differences in cognitive decline and general presentation between Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and Parkinson's disease

### **Chapter 3: Pathological Manifestations Part Two**

- Review components of a cognitive screening and evaluation for the older adult.
- Identify between the different types of dementias and their presentations
- Understand the features of Lewy Body Dementia (LBD) and how it differs from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.
- Appreciate the pathophysiology of LBD and the areas in the brain, both cortical and sub-cortical, that are affected.
- Understand the other dementias, including Huntington's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and normal pressure hydrocephalus and the distinct clinical presentations of each.
- Understand the difference between acute or reversible dementia, and chronic or irreversible dementia.
- Recall the helpful mnemonic for acute or reversible dementia.
- Appreciate how neurosensory manifestations of aging can superimpose on dementia to complicate the clinical picture.