

Screening Questions for the Assessment Proforma

Screening for dementia is not recommended for the general population. However, healthcare professionals should be aware of clinical features that may suggest cognitive impairment and should also be aware of the increased risk of dementia in people with conditions such as Down's syndrome and other learning disabilities, after a stroke and in Parkinson's disease.

Listed below are some suggested screening questions which might help guide clinicians as to the possible underlying cause of a patient's presentation. It should be noted however that a clinician should never delay referral for memory assessment on the basis that the results are only borderline-positive or where the patient appears to be coping well unaided - this is the group of patients likely to benefit most from intervention.

Normal pressure hydrocephalus screening questions

- Onset of urinary incontinence within first 6 months of cognitive impairment / confusion
- Onset of gait disturbance within first 6 months of cognitive impairment / confusion

Parkinson's disease screening questions

- Shuffling gait and/or reduced arm swing on walking
- Changes in writing – becoming smaller in size
- Tremor at rest

Lewy Body screening questions

- Onset visual hallucinations within first 6 months of cognitive problems
- Symptoms of Parkinson's disease
- Cognitive impairment which may be fluctuating
- Reported sleep disturbance

Frontotemporal screening questions

- Change in personality within first 6 months of onset of symptoms, with no or minimal memory difficulties
- Impulsivity and disinhibition
- Behaviour that puts the person or others at risk
- Dysphasia within first 6 months of onset of symptoms