The Mini-Cog is a simple screening tool that is well accepted and takes up to only 3 minutes to administer. This tool can be used to detect cognitive impairment quickly during both routine visits and hospitalizations. The Mini-Cog serves as an effective triage tool to identify patients in need of more thorough evaluation. The Clock Drawing Test (CDT) component of the Mini-Cog allows clinicians to quickly assess numerous cognitive domains including cognitive function, memory, language comprehension, visual-motor skills, and executive function and provides a visible record of both normal and impaired performance that can be tracked over time.

### Administration

1. **Get patient’s attention and ask him or her to remember three unrelated words.** Ask patient to repeat the words to ensure the learning was correct.

2. **Ask patient to draw the face of a clock.** After numbers are on the face, ask patient to draw hands to read 10 minutes after 11:00 (or 20 minutes after 8:00).

3. **Ask the patient to recall the three words from Step 1.**

### Special Instructions

- Allow patient three tries, then go to next item.
- The following word lists have been validated in a clinical study:
  - **VERSION 1**
    - Banana
    - Sunrise
    - Chair
  - **VERSION 2**
    - Daughter
    - Heaven
    - Mountain
  - **VERSION 3**
    - Village
    - Kitchen
    - Baby
  - **VERSION 4**
    - River
    - Nation
    - Finger
  - **VERSION 5**
    - Captain
    - Garden
    - Picture
  - **VERSION 6**
    - Leader
    - Season
    - Table

- Either a blank piece of paper or a preprinted circle (other side) may be used.
- A correct response is all numbers placed in approximately the correct positions AND the hands pointing to the 11 and 2 (or the 4 and 8).
- These two specific times are more sensitive than others.
- A clock should not be visible to the patient during this task.
- Refusal to draw a clock is scored abnormal.
- Move to next step if clock not complete within three minutes.

### Scoring

- **3 recalled words**
  - Negative for cognitive impairment

- **1-2 recalled words + normal CDT**
  - Negative for cognitive impairment

- **1-2 recalled words + abnormal CDT**
  - Positive for cognitive impairment

- **0 recalled words**
  - Positive for cognitive impairment

### References


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