



WHAT IS NEUROPSYCHOLOGY?

Clinical Neuropsychology is a specialty profession focused on understanding brain function through systematic analysis of brain-behavior relationships. A clinical neuropsychologist is a doctoral-level, licensed psychologist with advanced expertise in how behavior and skills are related to brain anatomy and systems. Clinical neuropsychologists use this knowledge in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and or rehabilitation of patients with neurologic, medical, neurodevelopmental and psychiatric conditions, as well as other cognitive and learning disorders.

WHO NEEDS A NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST?

Patients are often referred to a neuropsychologist if they are having problems or changes in memory, concentration, language, reasoning, perception, coordination or personality. These can occur as a result of a brain injury, illness, disease, developmental delay or psychological issue.



SEMMES MURPHEY
Leaders in Brain & Spine Care

For more detailed information, visit

The Society for Clinical Neuropsychology
www.scn40.org

**American Academy of
Clinical Neuropsychology**
www.theaacn.org

National Academy of Neuropsychology
www.nanonline.org

**SEMMES MURPHEY CLINIC
MEMPHIS OFFICE**

6325 Humphreys Boulevard
Memphis, TN 38120

Appointments: (901) 522.7722
www.semmes-murphey.com

Neuropsychology



SEMMES MURPHEY
Leaders in Brain & Spine Care



WHAT HAPPENS DURING A NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION?

Be prepared to discuss symptoms, medical history and medications. Patients complete pencil and paper tests, computer tests and sometimes exercises with blocks or puzzles. With the patient's permission, the neuropsychologist may interview family members or others who can offer insight.

A neuropsychological evaluation includes a series of tests designed to measure a person's cognitive abilities such as memory, attention, communication, and problem-solving, as well as an assessment of psychological or emotional symptoms. These tests are used to determine whether cognitive changes are symptoms of a neurologic illness or injury, a psychological condition (like depression or anxiety), or just a normal part of the aging or developmental process. Treatment providers can use

this information to determine a diagnosis; assess whether a medical treatment has or may likely affect cognitive function; direct future treatment plans and rehabilitation needs; guide development of compensatory strategies; and determine functional capacities (e.g., fitness for duty, work readiness, financial and medication management).

Neuropsychological evaluations may vary between 2-6 hours, depending on the referral question, individual medical history, which tests need to be given, and how quickly and comfortably a patient is able to work. Feedback regarding exam performance may be presented on the same day of the evaluation; however, in lengthier evaluations, this may require a separate appointment.

In the case of pediatric evaluation, the child's medical and school records are reviewed. Very young children and infants can also be evaluated through a briefer process.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE EVALUATION?

It's best to arrive relaxed and well-rested. If you wear glasses or hearing aids, be sure to bring them, along with any medical records or medications your doctor may have requested. If you take any medications, check with your neuropsychologist about timing and dosage before your appointment.



PEDIATRIC NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

A neuropsychological evaluation may help children with:

- neurological disorders such as spina bifida, hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, neurofibromatosis, tuberous sclerosis, or a brain tumor.
- brain injuries from a trauma to the head, stroke, lack of oxygen, or an infection.
- medical problems such as prematurity, diabetes, chronic heart or breathing problems, genetic disorders, or treatment for childhood cancer
- exposure to lead, street drugs, or inhalants (carbon monoxide)
- exposure to alcohol, smoking, or certain drugs prior to birth
- developmental or school problems such as a learning disability, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or autism spectrum disorder/pervasive developmental disorder