

Cognitive Neurology Clinic

Department of Neurology, Atkinson Morley Wing,
St Georges Hospital

What is the Cognitive Neurology Clinic?

The Clinic specialises in the diagnosis and care of people with early onset (below the age of 65) and atypical dementias, such as early-onset Alzheimer's disease and Frontotemporal dementia.

Who runs this clinic?

The clinic is run jointly by two Consultant Neurologists, Dr Jeremy Isaacs and Dr Peter Garrard. The team also includes Dr Claire O'Neill, Clinical Neuropsychologist and Dr Samrah Ahmed-Ali, Research Psychologist. A Specialist Nurse is due to join the team shortly.

Who is referred to this clinic?

The clinic welcomes referrals for patients with concerns about their memory or other cognitive symptoms including difficulties with:-

- Thinking
- Concentration
- Language
- Orientation or perception
- Personality

How can I be referred to the clinic?

If you are concerned about any of these skills you should speak to your Doctor who can refer you should he/she feel that this is the most appropriate service for you.

What happens at a Cognitive Neurology appointment?

At your first appointment we will ask you about the kind of problems you are having. We will take a full medical history and ask you details about your education, work and family history.

We may also ask you to do some brief paper and pencil tests to gain a better idea of your memory or other thinking skills.

A Neurological examination will also take place.

What does a Neurological examination involve?

Neurological examination might involve watching you walk, looking at the way you move your eyes, and assessing muscle tone, strength and co-ordination in your limbs.

How long does this appointment last?

This appointment normally lasts for 40 to 60 minutes.

What happens after my appointment?

The Cognitive Neurologist will discuss the outcome of your assessment with you and will write to your Doctor with recommendations for your future care. If you are not having any more appointments with us we will then discharge you back to the care of your Doctor.

Will I need further tests?

In some cases, further investigation is necessary. This usually takes place on the Atkinson Morley Wing day unit and may include:-

1. Blood tests
2. A lumbar puncture
3. A scan of the brain (i.e. MRI or CT)
4. An EEG
5. Neuropsychological assessment (further assessment of memory and other thinking skills)

A follow-up appointment will then be offered to discuss the results of these investigations. If a diagnosis of a dementia is made, then we will discuss treatment options and where to get further advice and information.

The Neuropsychologist in the service also offers advice on coping with memory difficulties or difficulties with other thinking skills.

Medical research at St Georges

There are opportunities for patients to take part in research into dementia, including clinical and magnetic resonance imaging studies and treatment trials. Please feel free to ask a member of the team for further information if you are interested in participating.

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