# Brief Objective Tools Can Help Aid Timely Detection of Cognitive Impairment

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<th>TOOL</th>
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<tr>
<td>GPCOG (General Practitioner Assessment of Cognition)</td>
<td>A tool that contains separate sections for patient and informant. Patient section assesses time orientation, awareness of recent news story, and recall of name and address. Informant section compares patient's current and previous functioning.</td>
<td>Patient: 2-5 min</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>Patient score &lt;5</td>
<td>Developed for and validated in primary care setting; little or no educational bias; available in multiple languages; limited data on any language/culture biases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini-Cog™</td>
<td>A cognitive assessment tool that includes 3-item word memory recall and clock-drawing; sequential scoring method.</td>
<td>2-4 min</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>Informant score ≤3</td>
<td>Developed for and validated in primary care and multiple languages/cultures; little or no education/language/race bias; use of different word lists may affect failure rates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLUMS (Saint Louis University Mental Status)</td>
<td>A 30-point, 11-item scale that assesses attention, numeric calculation, immediate and delayed recall, animal naming, digit span, clock drawing, figure recognition/size differentiation, and immediate recall of facts from a paragraph.</td>
<td>7 min</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>Score ≤27</td>
<td>No educational bias; tests many separate domains; does not test executive function; studied in a VA geriatric clinic.</td>
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<td>MMSE (Mini-Mental State Examination)</td>
<td>A two-section test, the first section requires verbal responses and assesses orientation, memory, and attention. A second section assesses ability to name, follow verbal and written commands, write a sentence spontaneously, and copy a complex polygon.</td>
<td>7-10 min</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Score ≤26</td>
<td>Most widely used and studied worldwide; required for some reimbursements; education/age/language/culture bias; ceiling effect; purchase required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoCA (Montreal Cognitive Assessment)</td>
<td>A 30-point test that assesses short-term memory recall, visuospatial abilities, multiple aspects of executive functioning, attention, concentration, working memory, language, and orientation to time and place.</td>
<td>10-15 min</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>Score ≤26</td>
<td>Designed to test for MCI; available in multiple languages; education bias (≤12 years); limited data available in general practice settings.</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note: the above is not all-inclusive and expresses only some of the more widely recognized tools for cognitive assessment.

**INDICATES POSSIBLE COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT**

- Patient score <5
- Informant score ≤3 + Patient score <8

**CONSIDERATIONS**

- Developed for and validated in primary care setting; little or no educational bias; available in multiple languages; limited data on any language/culture biases.
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References: