Fitness to drive of older drivers with cognitive impairments

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This thesis addresses how fitness to drive should be assessed in patients with cognitive impairment, considering different types of dementia (e.g., vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia, Lewy body dementia). Different assessment strategies must be developed to accommodate the unique characteristics of each dementia type. Strategies including individual evaluations, clinical interviews, neuropsychological tests, and driving simulator rides are effective in evaluating fitness to drive. Developing a fitness-to-drive assessment could help reduce the risk of unsafe driving among patients with cognitive impairment. This topic is highly relevant as the automotive industry moves towards increased automation, with many predicting that the driving cessation of patients with cognitive impairment may need support to stimulate the transition to alternative transportation. In the process of driving cessation, patients with cognitive impairment may need support to stimulate the transition to alternative transportation, in order to retain mobility and social participation.

**References**


Kok, R., & Verhey, F. (2002). [Dutch translation of the Mini Mental State Examination (Folstein et al., 1975).]


Schuhfried, G. (2013). Vienna Test System (VTS) 8 (Version 8.2.00) [Computer software]. Vienna, Austria: SCHUHFRIED.


Appendix Protocol

Inviting patients
You have received a patient referral from a doctor or the patient has signed up themselves.

Send the patient the information letter along with the participation form and informed consent form by mail, unless the doctor has already given the patient an information letter, participation form, and informed consent form.

Wait until the participation form and informed consent form are sent back. If you have not received anything after two weeks call the patient to inquire whether they have forgotten to send the forms. After sign up is completed you can schedule the patient and call them to make an appointment.

Afterwards send a confirmation by mail along with a copy of the Driving questionnaire. The patient should fill this in and bring it along on the day of testing. Also mention in the invitation that the patient should bring a list of his medication.

Preparation for the day of testing

Two researchers are required to be present on the day of testing:

• The anamnesis supervisor will administer the heteroanamnesis and anamnesis. This supervisor will also be present during the visual field test and driving simulator tests.

• The testing supervisor will administer the neuropsychological tests and is also present during the driving simulator tests.

Both researchers are involved in the driving simulator section. This creates the opportunity for discussion on the driving behaviour and interpretation thereof.

Make sure all of the following items are printed out, write the participant number in the right top corner of each sheet, and place them in the correct order:

• Informed consent form (already filled in by the patient)
• CDR-form
• Addition heteroanamnesis