EARLY-STAGE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (AD)

ID AD IDENTIFY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Provided by Biogen

Early symptomatic AD includes a mild cognitive impairment (MCI) stage followed by an early AD dementia stage. Timely detection of MCI provides an opportunity to identify AD patients in the pre-dementia stage.[1]

Recommendations to aid in the detection of early-stage AD[2–4]

Clinical criteria for MCI[2,5]

MCI can be identified by a spectrum of symptoms that include both memory and non-memory cognitive complaints.[2]
The following clinical criteria define MCI:

Subjective cognitive complaints

⊕ **Expand to read more**

Objective evidence of cognitive impairment in one or more domains

⊕ **Expand to read more**

Essentially normal functional activities

⊕ **Expand to read more**

Differential diagnosis

It is important for healthcare professionals (HCPs) to differentiate early signs and symptoms of AD, not only from normal ageing, but also from other potentially reversible causes of cognitive decline.[3,15]

⊕ **Expand to read more**

Confirmation of underlying AD pathology

In order to accurately diagnose MCI due to AD, a biomarker confirmation of AD pathology is required.[2,4]

⊕ **Expand to read more**

To know more about early detection of AD, visit the Identify AD (ID/AD) website:
www.identifyalz.eu

The World Health Organization supports a **paradigm shift** towards an earlier AD diagnosis to **preserve cognitive and independent functioning for as long as possible**.[16]

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Clinical criteria for MCI[2,5]   ✖

Subjective cognitive complaints

Informant-based or self-reports are useful for screening people at risk of cognitive impairment and to monitor for longitudinal neurobehavioural change:[6–9]

- **The AD8** - 'Eight-item Interview to Differentiate Aging and Dementia' - is a quick 'yes/no' questionnaire where the patient or informant rates subjective changes about memory, orientation, judgement, and everyday function[6]

- **The Quick Dementia Rating System (QDRS)** covers prominent symptoms of AD including MCI and assesses additional behavioural and functional domains[7]

- **The Subjective Cognitive Decline Questionnaire (SCD-Q)** may help predict amyloid PET outcome[8]

...nosis

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...more

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Clinical criteria for MCI[2,5]

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Objective detection of MCI in a clinical setting can be performed via MCI-sensitive, validated, short screening tools. They are called **'performance-based assessments'** and are administered by the HCP:[10,11]

- **The Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) test** is a screening tool with high sensitivity and specificity for detecting MCI, as it addresses additional frontal-executive function domains not commonly found in other brief performance tests[10,12]

- **The General Practitioner Assessment of Cognition (GPCOG)** is an optimal screening tool combining subjective and objective evidence of cognitive decline. It is available online and performs at least as well as the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)[11,13]

Existing screening tools are insufficient to make a diagnosis but are important for isolating domains of impairment and advising the HCP on further assessments.[14]

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...ad more

Clinical criteria for MCI[2,5] ✕

Essentially normal functional activities

Cognitive decline doesn't normally interfere with a patient's ability to carry out basic activities of daily living. Mild difficulties with more complex daily activities may occur, but dementia is absent.

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Differential diagnosis[3,15] ⊗

- Documentation of a **complete patient medical history** to identify risk factors and to rule out the causes of transient MCI

- **Laboratory tests** to rule out other medical conditions responsible

- **A physical exam and neuroimaging** to rule out neurological disorders other than AD

[Di]fferential diagnosis

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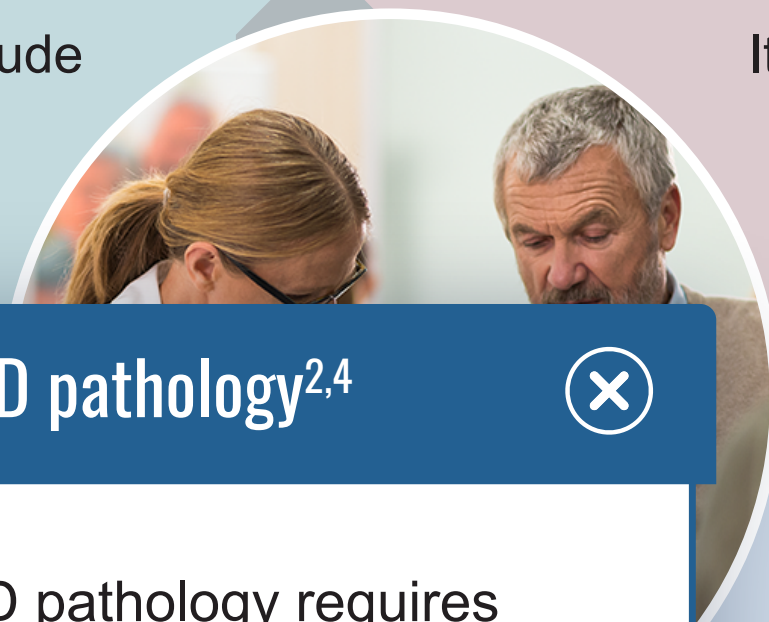**The following clinical criteria define MCI:**

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Confirmation of underlying AD pathology[2,4] ⊗

- Biomarker confirmation of AD pathology requires at least evidence of amyloid beta accumulation in the brain

- For the AD amnestic phenotype, evidence of tau pathology is also recommended, as in this case amyloid positivity alone is not specific for AD

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