

Dementia Behavioral Assessment Tool (DBAT)

LEVEL	✓	CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS
1 – Normal Aging		No cognitive changes evident. Normal aging, normal brain function.
2 – Early Stage Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) Unknown timeline, possibly from age 40 to age 55/60 Minimal brain tissue loss		Subjective cases of memory deficits
		Recovers relatively quickly from mistakes, may correct self
		Misplaces familiar objects
		Forgets names he/she knows well
		No problems completing tasks or at social functions
		Exhibits appropriate concern over memory function
		Vacillates between seeking medical care and ignoring symptoms
		Functions effectively at work
		Highly functional social skills
		Requires complete cognitive testing to determine challenges
		Anticipate cognitive medication administration
		Scores well on orientation test, requires cognition exam for diagnosis
		Amnesia beginning to be expressed
3 – Middle Stage Beginning Dementia Stage may be 1 - 4 years or more Minimal brain tissue loss		Memory deficit evident on intensive interview
		Attempts to conceal deficits
		Expresses concern regarding deficits (mild/moderate anxiety)
		Problems performing in demanding situations (work or social)
		Co-workers/family members aware of increasing challenges
		Gets lost traveling to new areas
		Exhibits signs of cognition (reading) but retains little information
		Name/word finding difficulty more frequent
		Challenged to remember new names
		Denies any cognition difficulties
		Demonstrates high social skill level
		Uses humor to avoid answering questions
		No noticeable physical changes
		Beginning to skip steps in tasks
		Able to score well on orientation test, but not on cognition exam
		At times appears befuddled
		Amnesia, aphasia, agnosia present
4 – Middle Stage Moderate Dementia Stage may be 1 - 4 years or more 4 ounces brain tissue loss Equivalent to 12 year old to adulthood		Decreased knowledge of current and recent events
		Memory deficits regarding personal history
		Decreased ability to perform serial subtractions
		Difficulty with immediate recall
		Difficulty with complex tasks
		Denial of deficits, with or without agitation and annoyance
		Withdraws from challenging situations
		Increased anxiety/frustration over abilities or loss thereof
		Difficulty telling jokes, stories
		Decreased facial affect
		Increased appearance of depressive symptoms
		Begins incorrectly identifying family members
		Fluctuation in functioning can appear great at times
		May become lost in tasks
		Greater language challenges, word-finding
		Challenges in driving/operating car
		No weight loss or physical changes in appearance
		Begins keeping lists of family names, phone numbers, etc.
		Exhibits greater desire for sweet foods
		May score well on orientation test, deficits on cognition exam
		Amnesia, Aphasia, Agnosia and Apraxia present

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5 – Late Stage Moderately Severe Dementia All Dressed Up, Ready To Go Stage may be 1-3 Years ½ to 1 pound brain tissue loss Equivalent to 8 – 12 year old *Equivalent to 4– 8 year old	Disorientation to time (date, day of week, season, etc.) or place Immediate memory relatively intact Needs assistance choosing clothing, layers clothing May crave sweets over other foods Denies need for assistance with ADLs/IADLs Hunting and Gathering Stage Urinary Incontinence begins –monthly to weekly to daily Wears clothing appropriately (hearing aid, glasses, carries purse) Feeds self (may need meal set-up) Sleep disturbances Can score well on an orientation test Wanders looking for a way out (purposeful wandering/ Sun-downing) Follows simple instructions for ADLs, verbal cues needed for tasks Unexplained tearfulness or extreme laughter Catastrophic reactions Some resistance to care giving *May begin chronic Urinary Tract Infections *Appears severely depressed *Increased loss of facial affect *Coordinated movement/function beginning to be affected *Begins to be lost in current time *Difficulty recognizing self in a mirror *Challenged to recall family members *Accuses family members, caregivers of theft, infidelity, lying *Automatic “yes/no” speech functions, but without understanding *May begin using curse words as temporal lobes become damaged *Changes in visual perception increasing *Difficulty interpreting background noise *Challenged to perform rehab for injuries, may appear stubborn *Cannot give accurate information *Caregivers may confuse behavior for purposeful action – lying, etc. *Physical appearance beginning to be affected *Pilling or rubbing motions common, may enjoy folding items *Amnesia, Aphasia, Agnosia and Apraxia evident to outsiders
6 – Late Stage Severe Dementia In My Own Little World Stage may be 1 - 3 Years 1 to 1½ pounds of brain tissue loss Equivalent to 2 – 4 year old	Unable to recall most recent events Repetitiveness in motion or speech or memory May be in constant motion, wanders/walks for hours Removes/won't wear clothing appropriately (glasses, hearing aid) Refuses to change clothing Feeds self with set-up; cues; assist Bowel incontinence begins Sleep disturbances, may increase sleep, may require little sleep Catastrophic reactions, great resistance to care giving, bathing Purposeless wandering/Sun-downing (wandering without an agenda) Cannot complete a two-stage command Apraxia advanced, gait altered (small shuffling steps) Aphasia increased, great language loss Weight loss beginning Difficult to engage with caregiver, challenged to initiate conversation Disregards eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids (agnosia) Disheveled appearance May begin sleeping for longer periods of time Difficult to perform rehab for injuries Almost total loss of facial affect May suddenly use complete sentence, then only words or sounds
7 – Late Stage Very Severe Dementia Bedbound Total Care Required Stage may be 1 to 2 years 1½ to 2 pounds brain tissue loss Equivalent to Infants – 2 year old	Frequently no speech at all – mostly grunting Cannot feed self --- Chipmonking, high choking risk Unable to sit up independently, unable to hold head up Loss of basic psychomotor skills (unable to walk w/o assistance) Hyper oral (may put everything in mouth) Requires total care, Displays great muscular flexation Extreme risk for skin breakdown Spends majority of day asleep or semi-alert Loss of ability to smile – indicative death is near