

Neuropsychology

What is Neuropsychology?

Neuropsychology is one of the specialties that diagnose and treat behaviors caused by brain dysfunction, disease or injury. At the current time, a neuropsychological assessment is the most sensitive method available for assessing memory loss and cognitive problems. An assessment can detect a problem years before the illness becomes clinically apparent. This allows for early treatment.

The patient's verbal and visual memory, the ability to learn new information, attention and concentration, and other skills important to daily functions are assessed. Taking several hours to complete, it is best done over two or more appointments. Additional information is gained from a family member or a close friend who is invited to speak with the doctor. Since dementia may put certain patients at risk when driving an automobile, driving abilities testing may be recommended.

At the completion of the assessment, the neuropsychologist meets with the patient and family members to discuss the test findings and to make recommendations for treatment or rehabilitation.

(www.carolinamemoryclinic.com).

A neuropsychologist should also be able to make suggestions in structuring support systems to compensate for the brain injury. Do not hesitate to ask as many questions as needed.

Frequently, abilities change dramatically in the first couple of years following an injury. A follow-up evaluation should be done within two years after the injury occurs.

How to Find a Good Neuropsychologist

A neuropsychologist should have a state license to practice psychology and have a Ph.D. in psychology. After receiving a Ph.D., a neuropsychologist should have additional supervised training and experience in the cognitive and behavioral evaluation of individuals with various types of brain injury and disease. Some neuropsychologists are certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). However, the certification is fairly new; several qualified neuropsychologists do not have ABPP certification. To find a good neuropsychologist, you should ask the same questions that you would ask of any professional.

Testing Options

For those who qualify, free neuropsychological evaluations are available through Vocational Rehabilitation (see Vocational Services and VR Offices Section).

Neuropsychologists

Neuropsychologists specialize in assessing and treating behavioral, cognitive and emotional changes that result from brain dysfunction. Treatment includes rehabilitation, psychological therapy and education. Neuropsychology can be a tool to diagnose brain injury and identify compensatory strategies.

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Works strictly with pediatric patients.

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Provides neuropsychological testing.

Tom Bundick, Ph.D.

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Dr. Bundick's areas of specialty are in evaluations and psychotherapy with people who have sustained any kind of brain injury.

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Dr. Alanna Conder specializes in pediatric and adolescent neuropsychological evaluations.

Bob Conder, PsyD., ABPN, ABPP-CN & RP

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Dr. Bob Conder has a board certification from the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology, the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology, and the American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology. He is also a Fellow of the National Academy of Neuropsychology.

He provides clinical services to neurological patients of all ages, as well as forensic neuropsychological evaluations, neurocognitive evaluations, educational evaluations and cognitive rehabilitation.

David R. Cox, Ph.D., ABPP

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Dr. Cox has a board certification in Rehabilitation Psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology. He is also a Fellow of the National Academy of Neuropsychology. He specializes in evaluations and assisting case managers/lawyers plan treatment. He provides neuropsychological evaluations, pain evaluations, forensic evaluations, disability determination evaluations and educational evaluations. He is contracted by the Wake County Public School System to assist in evaluating individuals with emotional/behavioral/learning disorders and also with brain injury for ages 4 and up. He is willing to travel throughout states.

Kathy Crump, Psy.D.

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Dr. Duncan provides neuropsychological evaluations, regular and forensic, as well as cognitive retraining, cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy (PTSD, panic, anxiety, and depression), disability determination, and educational assessments for ages 13 and up.

George P. Fowles, Ed.D, FACP-N-Director

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Dr. Franklin is a supervisor for the NC Department of Public Instruction's Registry of TBI Providers. He provides expert witness for the defense in civil litigation. Dr. Franklin is fellowship trained and board certified in pediatric neuropsychology.

Elizabeth Gamble, Psy.D.

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Dr. Gamble is on the NC Department of Public Instruction's Registry of TBI Providers. She provides neuropsychological evaluations, forensic evaluations, disability evaluations, dementia evaluations, and educational assessments for ages 5 and up. Coordinator of Rehab Center TBI team.

Patricia Gross, Ph.D.

Staff Neuropsychologist
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Dr. Harbin specializes in neuropsychology and forensic psychology.

Kris Herfkens, PhD

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Dr. Herfkens provides clinical and forensic neuropsychological evaluations to adults, as well as cognitive retraining and cognitive behavioral therapy.

Meredith Hickory, Psy.D. – Clinical Neuropsychologist (Pediatric)

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Dr. Hickory accepts referrals for children and adolescents with brain injuries or other neurological diseases (e.g. epilepsy, brain tumors) to assess their cognitive behavioral, and emotional functioning.

Mark R. Hill, Ph.D.

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Works with ages 16 and older. Specializes in TBI and dementia and accepts most insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Christy L. Jones, Ph.D., ABPN

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Dr. Jones completed her training at Duke University and is a board-certified neuropsychologist. Her mission is two-fold: first she evaluates and treats neurological conditions. In addition, she assists patients in making lifestyle changes to minimize any ongoing limitations.

Michelle King, Psy.D.

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Adult population neuropsychological evaluations.

Sharon Leuenberger, Ph.D.

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Dr. Leuenberger has focused the majority of her almost twenty year career working with youth who have sustained a head injury. During her years at an acute hospital setting, inpatient rehab hospital, and outpatient rehab clinic, she worked with clients and their families from the onset of injury through inpatient and/or outpatient therapy, to his/her return home. She also worked for the government funded TBI Program, assisting individuals with their entry back into the school setting. Her experience includes the administration of neuropsychological evaluations, provision of school staff/peer education, facilitation of social skills groups and parent support groups, and assistance in the establishment and monitoring of the individual's academic program. She presently works at 3-C Family Services which is an independent medical and therapy center located off of Harrison Avenue in Cary.

H. William Link, Ph.D.

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Dr. Puente has a Board Certification from the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology. He provides neuropsychological evaluations, disability determination exams, and educational assessments for ages 16 and up (younger in certain cases).

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Dr. Steketee specializes in neuropsychological evaluations with adults, including both screening and thorough evaluations (memory, attention deficit disorder, guardianship, independent living skills); mindfulness-based, solution-focused cognitive therapy for individuals, couples, and groups (adjustment to neurological or medical conditions); Dialectical Behavior Therapy; assessments of Cognitive and Personality Strengths; memory enhancement strategies; and cross-cultural and women's issues within the context of assessment and treatment.

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