

NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

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What is Neuropsychology ?

Neuropsychology is a subspecialty within the field of **clinical psychology** and is concerned with the study of **brain-behavior relationships**. Specifically, **neuropsychology services** involve the **assessment** and **treatment** of the **cognitive, emotional** and **behavioral** problems of children and adults with neurologic disorders.

The spectrum of disorders includes: **traumatic brain injury, cerebral vascular disorders, neoplastic disease, degenerative conditions, dementia, substance abuse pathology, toxicity, seizures, attention deficits, and learning disabilities.**

Patients referred for neuropsychological evaluation are assessed using batteries of paper/pencil and mechanical tests. The results are computer analyzed for patterns of cognitive, behavioral, and emotional **strengths and weaknesses** to determine neurologic prognosis and implications for everyday functioning and therapy.

What happens after neuropsychological evaluation ?

Based on the pattern of strengths and deficits determined from **neuropsychological testing**, a **Report of Evaluation** is generated in which the psychologist makes **recommendations** for treatment and remediation.

Often, children and adults with **learning disabilities** and **acquired brain lesions** exhibit difficulties in interacting and adjusting to life situations. The psychologist then provides **consultation** to the **physician** as well as **the patient and family** to develop **behavioral and environmental management programs** designed to **decrease problem behaviors, develop appropriate alternative behaviors** and **improve learning**.

Treatment services include: **cognitive rehabilitation (i.e., remediation) and individual and family counseling and education**. The psychologist may consult with those who are involved with the patient in some ongoing capacity (e.g., family, physician, employer, school) to help create an optimal environment for coping with **residual cognitive and behavioral deficits**.

What types of tests are included in a neuropsychological evaluation ?

The neuropsychological test batteries utilized for the highest functioning patients typically include tests of **strengths and deficits** in:

general intelligence, abstract reasoning, concept formation, mental flexibility, attention and concentration, immediate and short-term recall of verbal and visuospatial materials, new, rapid, and complex problem solving, sensory and motor abilities, language and aphasia, learning, academic functioning and personality, emotional, and behavioral functioning.

Modifications of this comprehensive assessment approach are used with lower functioning patients.

Serial testing to measure functional progress is usually recommended to assist in maintaining appropriate treatment goals.

For more information, please feel free to call Dr. Eimer at 215-947-7867 or e-mail him [here](#).