Behavioral and Neurologic Assessment

Using the National Institutes of Health Toolbox

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Contents of the Toolbox

The toolbox includes detailed information on how to administer and score each instrument, so assessment is complete and consistent across users. Similarly, researchers can use the toolbox to measure a construct once or over time. An option exists to save the data for analysis for quality improvement and research studies.

The toolbox offers multiple instruments to assess cognition. It would take about two hours to administer all of these instruments, but brief cognitive subdomain measures of executive function, episodic memory, language, processing speed, working memory, and attention are all designed to be administered in minutes using minimal equipment (Weintraub et al., 2013). Using subdomain components of the toolbox can be effective and acceptable measures for cancer research or quality improvement projects and potentially routine clinical assessment. For example, distress screening is now routinely done using a simple tool to detect problems with the goal of early intervention. Cognitive changes are a subtle but important problem in oncology practice. Routinely screening for such changes with a normed, easy-to-use tool could identify patients who are experiencing cognitive decline with the goal of more comprehensive evaluation and interventions to

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