

miniCOG

Purpose : instrument to screen for cognitive impairment in older adults

Admin time : 5-10 min.

User Friendly : High

Administered by: Healthcare provider

Content : A 3-item recall component is combined with a simplified Clock Drawing Test (CDT)

Author : Borson S, 2003

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Language Accessibility

The miniCOG is **available** in several other languages



<https://www.cgakit.com/p-1-minicog>

Step 1: Three Word Registration

Look directly at person and say, "Please listen carefully. I am going to say three words that I want you to repeat back to me now and try to remember. The words are [select a list of words from the versions below]. Please say them for me now." If the person is unable to repeat the words after three attempts, move on to Step 2 (clock drawing).

The following and other word lists have been used in one or more clinical studies.¹⁻³ For repeated administrations, use of an alternative word list is recommended.

Version 1	Version 2	Version 3	Version 4	Version 5	Version 6
Banana	Leader	Village	River	Captain	Daughter
Sunrise	Season	Kitchen	Nation	Garden	Heaven
Chair	Table	Baby	Finger	Picture	Mountain

Step 2: Clock Drawing

Say: "Next, I want you to draw a clock for me. First, put in all of the numbers where they go." When that is completed, say: "Now, set the hands to 10 past 11."

Use preprinted circle (see next page) for this exercise. Repeat instructions as needed as this is not a memory test. Move to Step 3 if the clock is not complete within three minutes.

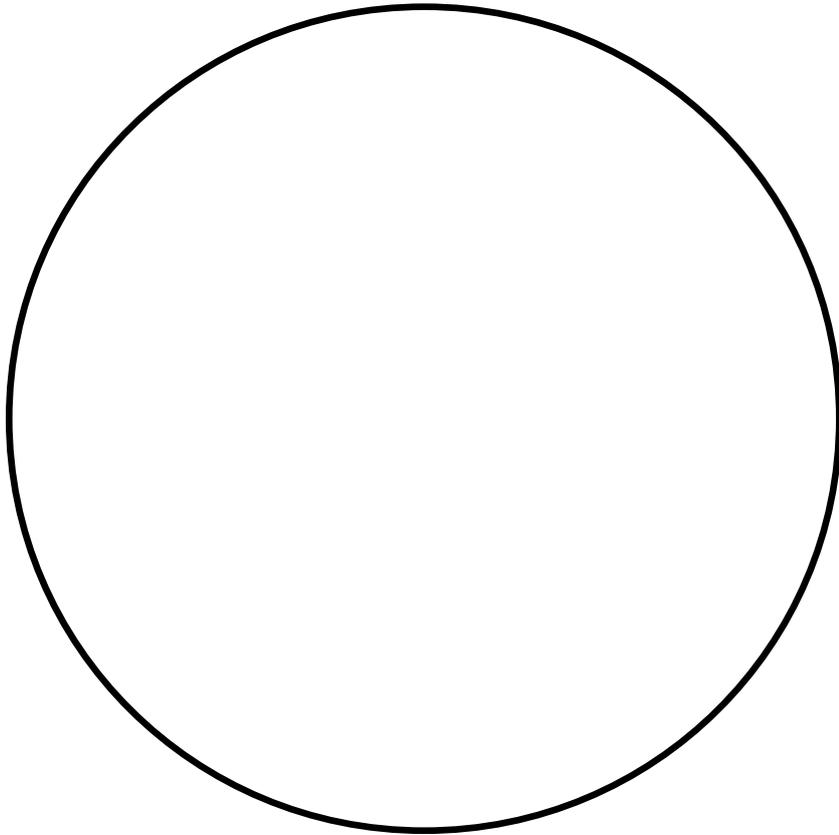
Step 3: Three Word Recall

Ask the person to recall the three words you stated in Step 1. Say: "What were the three words I asked you to remember?" Record the word list version number and the person's answers below.

Word List Version: _____ Person's Answers: _____

Scoring

Word Recall: _____ (0-3 points)	1 point for each word spontaneously recalled without cueing.
Clock Draw: _____ (0 or 2 points)	Normal clock = 2 points. A normal clock has all numbers placed in the correct sequence and approximately correct position (e.g., 12, 3, 6 and 9 are in anchor positions) with no missing or duplicate numbers. Hands are pointing to the 11 and 2 (11:10). Hand length is not scored. Inability or refusal to draw a clock (abnormal) = 0 points.
Total Score: _____ (0-5 points)	Total score = Word Recall score + Clock Draw score. A cut point of <3 on the Mini-Cog™ has been validated for dementia screening, but many individuals with clinically meaningful cognitive impairment will score higher. When greater sensitivity is desired, a cut point of <4 is recommended as it may indicate a need for further evaluation of cognitive status.



References

1. Borson S, Scanlan JM, Chen PJ et al. The Mini-Cog as a screen for dementia: Validation in a population based sample. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2003;51:1451–1454.
2. Borson S, Scanlan JM, Watanabe J et al. Improving identification of cognitive impairment in primary care. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry* 2006;21: 349–355.
3. Lessig M, Scanlan J et al. Time that tells: Critical clock-drawing errors for dementia screening. *Int J Psychogeriatr*. 2008 June; 20(3): 459–470.
4. Tsoi K, Chan J et al. Cognitive tests to detect dementia: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2015; E1-E9.
5. McCarten J, Anderson P et al. Screening for cognitive impairment in an elderly veteran population: Acceptability and results using different versions of the Mini-Cog. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2011; 59: 309-213.
6. McCarten J, Anderson P et al. Finding dementia in primary care: The results of a clinical demonstration project. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2012; 60: 210-217.
7. Scanlan J & Borson S. The Mini-Cog: Receiver operating characteristics with the expert and naive raters. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry* 2001; 16: 216-222.

Scoring the Mini-Cog[®]

The Mini-Cog[®] is scored in two parts: 1) 3-item recall, and 2) clock drawing. These are added together for a total score.

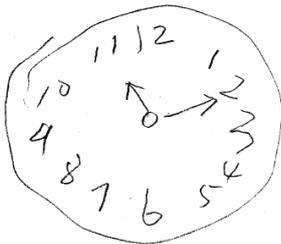
3-Item Recall Score:

1 point for each word recalled without cues, for a 3-item recall score of 1, 2, or 3.

Clock Drawing Score:

2 points for a normal clock or 0 (zero) points for an abnormal clock drawing. A normal clock must include all numbers (1-12), each only once, in the correct order and direction (clockwise). There must also be two hands present, one pointing to the 11 and one pointing to 2. Hand length is not scored in the Mini-Cog[®] algorithm.

Normal Clock



Abnormal Clock

(abnormal hands)



Abnormal Clock

(missing number)



Interpreting the Mini-Cog[®] Score:

Add the 3-item recall and clock drawing scores together.

A total score of 3, 4, or 5 indicates lower likelihood of dementia but does not rule out some degree of cognitive impairment.

The Mini-Cog[®] is not a diagnostic test for Alzheimer's disease or any other dementia or cause of cognitive impairment.

Diagnosis of brain disorders that cause cognitive impairment requires a medical examination and additional examinations.