

Description of the DriveABLE cognitive assessment tests.

The six tasks listed below make up the DriveABLE Cognitive Assessment.

Motor Speed and Control. This task evaluates how quickly the patient can respond by having him or her release a button and touch, as quickly as possible, a shape shown unpredictably on the left or right side of the screen.

Span of Attentional Field. This task evaluates possible shrinkage in the field of attention by first engaging the patient's attention at the centre of the screen. The patient then is to make a decision about a brief event presented at that location and identify the location of an event which occurred simultaneously and unpredictably at various locations in the periphery.

Spatial Judgment and Decision Making. This task examines the kinds of spatial judgment and decision making abilities that are important for making safe left turns or crossing a stream of traffic. A vertical line with gaps of varying sizes moves either up or down the screen and the patient decides when to initiate the movement of a small rectangle to cross through the gaps without hitting or being hit by one of the lines.

Speed of Attentional Shifting. This task looks at how quickly the client can shift attention from one thing to another. Attention is oriented toward one side of the screen and the patient is to indicate where a subsequently presented target

occurred. The target location is either consistent with the orienting or requires attentional shifting to the other side of the screen.

Executive Function. This task looks at executive functions, which are responsible for planning, cognitive flexibility, initiating appropriate actions and inhibiting inappropriate actions. The outlines of nine squares are located on the screen in an unstructured manner. In the 0-Lag condition, the client is to touch the square in which each 'X' was presented immediately after its presentation. In the 1-Lag condition, the client is to touch the square in which an 'X' was presented, one back from the most recently presented 'X'.

Identification of Hazardous Driving Situations. Short videos of real driving scenes are shown. The audio describes the situation and poses a question about a hazard to be identified or a driving action to be taken to avoid the hazard. Four alternative responses are presented auditorily and in text on the screen.