

Understanding Dementia

The RACGP's Silver book describes dementia as "...a progressive decline in general cognitive function, with normal consciousness and attention. There is impairment of memory, abstract thinking, judgment, verbal fluency and the ability to perform complex tasks. It is associated with behavioural and psychological changes, and impairment of social and physical functioning".

TEACHING AND LEARNING AREAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Dementia? • Video – James Vickers on Types of Dementia • Video – Fran McInerney on Stages of Dementia • The Five Domains of Dementia 				
PRE-SESSION ACTIVITIES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the following overview article on Dementia • Ask registrar to think about cues (or clues) which may indicate that a patient has early cognitive decline • Ask registrar to reflect on the challenges they have faced with differentiating patients with normal ageing from cognitive decline 				
TEACHING TIPS AND TRAPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early warning signs versus normal ageing • Utilise the opportunities in general practice for identification of patients who are at risk of dementia for example, • Registrar to sit in with practice nurse doing a health assessment /Drivers medicals/home visits for an over 75 yr old • To be alert to the possibility of dementia in younger people (<65 years) • Be familiar with the RACGP guidelines - preventative activities and understand case finding as opposed to screening 				
RESOURCES 	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Read</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RACGP Clinical Practice Guidelines And Principles of Care For People With Dementia In Australia • RACGP Dementia Related Cognitive Decline • RACGP Your Practice Guidelines - Silverbook - Common Clinical Conditions - Dementia </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Watch</td> <td> Detection of dementia in General Practice </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RACGP Clinical Practice Guidelines And Principles of Care For People With Dementia In Australia • RACGP Dementia Related Cognitive Decline • RACGP Your Practice Guidelines - Silverbook - Common Clinical Conditions - Dementia 	Watch	Detection of dementia in General Practice
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FOLLOW UP & EXTENSION ACTIVITIES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out Unit 518 Stages of life: Older age, July 2015 • Some additional activities that may be useful include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dementia Training Australia website for resources - Courses for free (useful for patients/families/carers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://dementialearning.org.au/courses/ - https://mooc.utas.edu.au/courses 				