

Frontal lobe history and tests

History

Personality changes (over familiar, tactless and sexual indiscretions)

Hyperorality

Distractibility

Poor motivation

Inability to adapt to new situations

Poor problem solving skills

Tests

- Abstract thinking:
Proverb interpretation
“People in glass houses should not throw stones at others”
Similarities test
“What are the similarities between apple and banana/table and chair”?
- Verbal fluency: FAS test. Judges ability to generate categorical lists
Ask the patient to list words beginning with letter F in one minute. Same with letter A and S. Normal adult should be able to list 15 words/letter in one minute. Total FAS words > 30. For elderly 10 words/letter/minute is acceptable.
- Motor sequencing:
Luria’s three-step test. Tell the patient that you are going to show them a series of hand movements. Demonstrate fist, edge and palm five times on your leg without verbal prompts. Ask the patient to repeat the sequence.
- Go no go test:
Ask the patient to place a hand on the table. Tap under the table. Tell the patient to raise one finger when you tap once and not to raise the finger when you tap twice. Show the patient how it’s done and then do the test.
- Cognitive estimates:
“What is the height of an average woman”?
“How many camels are there in Holland”
“What is the best paid job in Britain”?
- Primitive reflexes
Grasp: Stroke patient’s palm from radial to ulnar side. Patient will grasp your other hand.
Pout: Stroke the filtrum or tap a spatula placed over lips.
Palmomental: Stroke patient’s thenar eminence and the patient will wince.
- Neurological test:
Check for anosmia (olfactory nerve involvement)
Expressive dysphasia (Broca’s area involvement)