

## Abbreviated Mental Test Score

### Definition of the Abbreviated Mental Test Score (AMTS)

- The AMTS was developed and validated by Hodgkinson in 1972 (and later 1974 for institutionalised patients)
- It is a useful tool for determining the presence of cognitive impairment in a patient
- Initially developed to pick up the presence of dementia, now commonly used to identify any confusion (acute or chronic)

### The questions in the AMTS (1 point each)

- Age
- Current time (to the nearest hour)
- Recall: Ask the patient to remember an address (e.g. 42 West Register Street)
  - Ensure they are able to say it back to you immediately, then check recall at the end of the test
- Current year
- Current location (e.g. name of hospital or town)
- Recognise two people (e.g. relatives, carers, or if none around, the likely profession of easily identified people such as doctor/nurse)
- Date of birth
- Years of the first (or second) world war
- Name of the current monarch (or prime minister)
- Count sequentially backwards from 20 to 1

A score of less than 8 implies the presence of cognitive impairment

### Limitations of the AMTS

- In a patient with reduced GCS (or language barrier) the test cannot be completed
  - However, this does not give them a score of 0: being French is not a cause of delirium
- The test was validated during the 1970s in the elderly population
  - As such, the first world war was a significant life event, that one would expect any elderly patient to recall
  - With worrying frequency, younger patients are unable to recall the dates of the world wars, or tell you the name of the current monarch, already leaving them with a score of 8/10
- It does remain a useful initial screening tool, with high sensitivity, to identify elderly patients with cognitive impairment (e.g. delirium or dementia)