The Short Test of Mental Status (STMS)

**Orientation**
- Name, address, current location (street or building), city, county, date (day), month, year  (8)

**Digit span** - Present 1/sec, starting at 5 up to 7; record longest correct span
- 5-1-3-9-4,     2-6-1-9-4-7,   2-1-5-4-3-7-2   (7)

**Immediate Recall** - Number of words learned (N); number of trials needed to learn all four words up to four trials (n); recorded score = N-(n-1)
- Four unrelated words (apple, Mr. Murphy, charity, bridge)  (4)

**Calculation**
- 5x13,       65-7,       58÷2,      29+11    (4)

**Abstraction**
- Similarities: apple-banana, cat-horse, table-chair  (3)

**Construction and Copying**
- Draw a clock face showing 11:15 (2)
- Copy a cube *(diagram of cube shown to patient)*  (2)

**Information**
- President, Taoiseach, define an island, number of weeks per year  (4)

**Recall**
- The four words: apple, Mr. Murphy, charity, bridge  (4)

**Total (38)**

**Interpretation:** Scores in the 34 to 38 range are essentially normal; **scores from 29 to 33 suggestive of MCI**, and below 29, suggestive of dementia.
- While this test was initially developed to distinguish dementia from normal cognitive function, it may also be helpful in the evaluation of MCI.
- However, scores on this test cannot be viewed as diagnostic. Neuropsychological testing is often desirable when making the distinction between normal ageing and MCI, and also to characterise subtypes of MCI.


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