

**“Draw a Clock: Improving Clinical Interpretations”**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Injury and Stroke Conference**

**Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire**

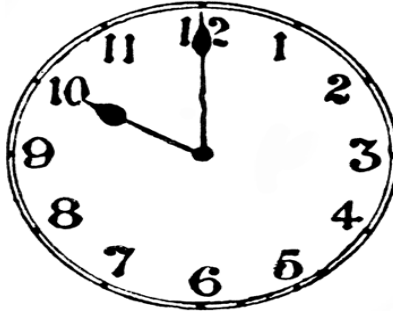
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## **The Undervalued, Underappreciated Clock Drawing.....**

### **The Clinical Value of the Clock Drawing**

**Source: The Division of Geriatrics, Department of Medicine  
The Geriatric Assessment Team and the Department of Psychiatry  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada**

**Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2002**

Executive cognitive dysfunction can precede memory disturbance in Dementia

People with executive cognitive dysfunction can have a normal Mini Mental Exam Score but still have severe functional limitations

Patients referred for a geriatric assessment who have a normal MMSE score, a clock drawing test, scored by either the Watson or Sunderland Method, is a moderately sensitive and specific adjunct for detecting executive cognitive function

### **Benefits of the Clock-Drawing Test**

Free

A fast screening tool

Easy to administer with low training demands

Easier to complete than the MoCA for people with short attention spans

Low linguistic demand makes it helpful when assessing a non-english speaker

Minimal equipment requirements – paper and a pen

Easy to score

## **Additional Clinical Benefits – Behavioral Observation Time During the Drawing**

How long did it take the patient to complete the drawing – typically under one minute for an unimpaired adult?

Does the patient appear distressed or frustrated with the task?

Did the patient employ any strategies to complete the drawing?

Did the patient recognize an error and perform a self- correction?

Did the patient recognize an error but was unable to correct it?

Did the patient exhibit any signs of distractibility?

Did the patient ask for a repetition of the directive? (typically “what time is it supposed to say”?)

What, if any, did their facial expression or body language reveal?

## **Specific Executive Cognitive Dysfunctions That Can Be Identified in a Clock Drawing Test**

Organization  
Sequencing  
Working Memory  
Long Term Memory  
Focused Attention  
Problem Solving

## **Additional Deficits That Can Be Identified in a Clock Drawing Test:**

Visual-Spatial Impairment (Hemianopsia)  
Perseveration  
Right/Left Confusion  
Dysgraphia for Numbers  
Abulia  
Left Neglect  
Right Inattention  
Dementia

## **Tutorials – Illustrative Examples**

## **Evidenced Based Methods for the Evaluation of Clock Drawings**

The Sunderland Method

The Watson Method

### **Hi-Tech Clock Drawing Options**

Draw a Clock App – “Large Face Clock”

Georgia Tech Clock Me System – Reader and Analyzer

MIT Digital Draw a Clock Pen System

**NOW IT'S YOUR TURN – LET'S PRACTICE!!!!**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE SEEING??**