Diagnosing Dementia

...to be done when the person is stable (i.e. not generally during a hospital admission)

History

STEP 01

Take a detailed history from the patient. Look for a cognitive impairment and ask what the functional result from this is?

Collateral History

STEP 02

The whole MDT can get information from others. What have they noticed the person finding difficult?

Examination

STEP 03

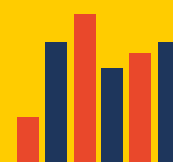Physical, mental state and specific cognitive tests. Eg. Addenbrooke's, MMSE, MOCA, Clock drawing etc.

Investigation

STEP 04

Rule out other causes using blood tests and imaging. CT or MRI can sometimes help decide subtype of dementia

Diagnosis

STEP 05

Put it all together to make a diagnosis. Think about possible subtype as this will affect management

60% is Alzheimer's Dementia

30% are vascular or mixed dementia

MDTea Podcast