

# **Neuropsychology and Lyme Disease**

**SATURDAY MAY 14TH, 2005  
SCOTTS RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
750 NORTH SALEM ROAD, RIDGEFIELD, CT**

**NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
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# NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

- The study of brain-behavior relationships and the impact of neurological disease, injury and illness on the whole person
- Cognitive
- Emotional
- Behavioral
- Interpersonal
- Family
- Academic/Professional
- Functional

# NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST

## Specific Knowledge

- Knowledge of tick-borne diseases (TBD)
- Evaluation experience – TBD
- Treatment experience – TBD
- Academic accommodations – TBD
- Workplace accommodations - TBD

# PRE-EVALUATION STEPS

- Interview neuropsychologist by phone/e-mail (education, experience, references)
- Clarify number and duration of sessions
- Discuss terms of written report and feedback
- Clarify fees and payment schedule
- Other requirements/materials
- What patient must bring to session (glasses, hearing aid, medication, food)

# CONTRIBUTING MATERIAL

- **Review medical records/data**
- **Interview referring physician, adjunct physicians/therapists, family/other supports and significant other**
- **Clinical interview**
- **Review previous academic/psychological or professional evaluations**

# NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION - RATIONALE

- Diagnosis
- Assessment of:
  1. Cognitive
  2. Emotional
  3. Behavioral
  4. Interpersonal
  5. Academic
  6. Functional
- Treatment planning
- Disability
- Training:
  1. Medical/Mental health staff
  2. Family and significant others
  3. Academic/Workplace
- Research

# NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL VARIABLES

- **Early signs vs. late signs**
- **Standardized tests**
- **Customized tests**
- **Time-related deficits**
- **Severity-related deficits**
- **Fluctuating deficits**
- **Pharmacologically-induced deficits**

# CONFOUNDING DIAGNOSES

- ADD-ADHD
- Learning Disabilities
- CFIDS
- Tourettes
- Mood Disorder
- Psychotic Rages
- Other

# DOMAINS EVALUATED

- Intellectual abilities
- Attention: simple/complex, divided/split
- Concentration
- Memory: encoding, consolidation, retrieval (i.e. STM/LTM, episodic/semantic, etc.)
- Language/Communication
- Academic abilities
- Verbal/Auditory abilities
- Visual abilities
- Processing: speed and accuracy
- Spatial/Perceptual
- Functional/Achievement
- Executive abilities
- Multitasking
- Higher-level reasoning
- Psychological/Emotional
- Effort

# EVALUATION VARIABLES

- Patient-Neuropsychologist bond
- Description of assessment process
- Order of tests
- Clarification of instructions
- Refresher breaks
- Periodic feedback

# EVALUATION REPORT

- Usage
- Content
- Summary
- Recommendations
- Copies

# FEEDBACK SESSION

- Face to Face vs. Telephonic
- Goals
- Location
- Who attends
- Duration
- Treatment decisions
- Referrals
- Consultations (e.g. school, treaters, workplace)