

test	Argentina <sup>1</sup>	Australia (NSW) <sup>2</sup>	Austria (OGAM) <sup>3</sup>	Canada (Patterson et al 2001) <sup>4</sup>	France (HAS, 2008) <sup>5</sup>	Germany (DEGAM) <sup>6</sup>	Italy (INS, 2000) <sup>7</sup>	New Zealand (NZGG 2000) <sup>8</sup>	Spain (Sociedad Espanola de Neurologia, 2002) <sup>9</sup>	USA (AAFP) <sup>10</sup>	UK (NICE, 2007) <sup>11</sup>
<b>Full blood count</b>	yes			yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hb, WBC		yes	yes								
ESR (=erythrocyte sedimentation rate)		yes						yes			
<b>Glucose</b>		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Thyroid function tests (TSH)</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Serum electrolytes (Na+, K+)</b>		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes
cholesterol									yes		
triglyceride									yes		
<b>Serum calcium</b>	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes		yes	yes		yes
<b>Serum phosphate</b>		yes							yes		
<b>renal: BUN (blood urea nitrogen)/creatinine</b>		yes	yes		yes	if specific indications	yes		yes	yes	yes
<b>Serum B12 levels</b>	yes	yes			if specific indications	if specific indications	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Serum folate level</b>	yes	yes			if specific indications	if specific indications	yes		yes		yes
<b>Serum albumin</b>					yes						
<b>Liver function tests (incl. gamma GT, GPT)</b>		yes	yes		if specific indication	if specific indications			yes	yes	yes
<b>CT scan</b>	yes	yes	yes	if specific indication (*)	if specific indications	if specific indications	yes	yes			
<b>Urinalysis</b>		yes (WBC, protein, sugar, culture if delirium)				yes	yes				yes (delirium)
<b>Syphilis serology</b>	if specific indications	if specific indications			if specific indication		yes			if specific indication	if specific indication
<b>Screening for HIV</b>	if specific indications	if specific indications			if specific indication		if specific indication			if specific indication	if specific indication
<b>Screening for Lyme disease (borreliosis)</b>					if specific indication						
<b>Chest X-Ray</b>		yes (if delirium)					yes				if specific indication
<b>ECG</b>			yes								if specific indication
<b>EEG</b>	if specific indications			not to be done by GP	if specific indication		yes			if specific indication	
<b>CSF</b>	if specific indications		if specific indications		if specific indication		special			if specific indication	not recommended as routine investigation
<b>SPECT/PET</b>			if specific indications	not to be done by GP			supplementary			if specific indication	
<b>genetic testing</b>	not recommended			not to be done by GP	if specific indication		special			if specific indication	
<b>Depression Screening</b>			yes			yes		yes		yes	

**Legend:**

blank fields indicate that specific test was not mentioned in GP guidelines

(\*) only recommended if patient < 60yrs of age, rapid unexplained decline, onset < 2 years ago, recent/significant head trauma, unexplained neurologic symptoms, history of cancer (esp that metastasise to the brain), use of anticoagulants or history of bleeding disorder, history of urinary incontinence and gait disorder early in the course of dementia, any new localising sign (eg hemiparesis or a Babinski reflex), unusual or atypical cognitive symptoms or presentations (eg progressive aphasia), gait disturbance

**References:**

- 1) Abel et al., Guia de practica clinica en la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Revista Neurológica Argentina 2006; 31: 140-144
- 2) Bridges-Webb et al (2003) for the RACGP, access online via: <http://www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/ClinicalResources/RACGPGuidelines/CareofPatientswithDementia/20060413dementiaguidelines.pdf>
- 3) Rebrandl et al (2004) for the Österreichische Gesellschaft fuer Allgemein- und Familienmedizin, access online via [http://www.alzheimer-liga.at/OEGAM\\_Demenz.pdf](http://www.alzheimer-liga.at/OEGAM_Demenz.pdf)
- 4) Patterson, C., et al., The recognition, assessment and management of dementing disorders: conclusions from the Canadian Consensus Conference on Dementia. Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences, 2001. 28 Suppl 1: p. S3-16.
- 5) Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS), 2008 access online via: [http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c\\_668822/alzheimer-s-disease-and-related-conditions-diagnosis-and-treatment](http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/jcms/c_668822/alzheimer-s-disease-and-related-conditions-diagnosis-and-treatment)
- 6) Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Allgemeinmedizin und Familienmedizin, 2008 access online via: <http://www.degam.de/typo/index.php?id=247>
- 7) Caltagirone et al, Guidelines for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease from the Italian Association of Psychogeriatrics. Drugs & Aging 2005; 22 Suppl.1:p.1-26
- 8) Milne et al for NZGG, 2000. access online via: [http://www.nzgg.org.nz/guidelines/0045/Guidelines\\_For\\_People\\_With\\_Dementia.pdf](http://www.nzgg.org.nz/guidelines/0045/Guidelines_For_People_With_Dementia.pdf)
- 9) Robles et al, Propuesta de criterios para el diagnostico clinico del deterioro cognitivo ligero, la demencia y la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Neurologia 2002; 17(1):17-32
- 10) Cummings, J.L., et al., Guidelines for managing Alzheimer's disease: part I. Assessment. American Family Physician, 2002. 65(11): p. 2263-72.
- 11) Barnett et al (2001) for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence; access online via <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/CG042NICEGuideline.pdf>