

Specialists in Memory Loss

Three types of specialists can help with evaluating and managing memory problems. After completing the medical evaluation, the doctor will determine which other professionals might be of help in evaluating or managing a person's memory problem.

Neurologists

Neurologists are medical doctors who specialize in diseases of the brain and nervous system. They have broad experience in these diseases and understand the unusual causes of memory loss. They are the experts in the “differential diagnosis” of memory loss, that is, determining what from a list of possible causes applies to a specific person and which cause is the most likely.

Psychiatrists

Psychiatrists are medical doctors who specialize in the disorders of mental function and emotion. Those with special training or interest in older persons are experts in the management of the mental complications of memory disorders. Depression, behavioral problems, and severe confusion often interfere with an affected person's best functioning level. They can also affect the family. Depression is also a common cause of memory problems.

Neuro- Psychologists

Neuropsychologists are experts in the measurement of mental function. They test brain functioning in many areas and offer the most precise answers to questions about the nature and seriousness of mental changes during the early stages of memory loss or dementia. Neuropsychologists can provide information to doctor's on a person's pattern of mental changes, which can be useful in determining the cause, particularly in difficult or unusual cases.