

Neuropsychological Assessment

What is a neuropsychological assessment?

Pediatric neuropsychological assessment provides information about how a child or teen's brain is working by objectively evaluating thinking skills and behavior. After a concussion, this information is used to answer questions about whether the brain is fully healed, why difficulties might be seen, whether a return to sports is sensible, and how best to treat any school, thinking, or behavioral problems. The Concussion Program is staffed by board-certified pediatric neuropsychologists who have particular expertise in how to evaluate and manage concussions in children and teenagers.

What is involved in a neuropsychological assessment after a concussion?

After a concussion, a neuropsychological assessment typically involves four parts: 1) reviewing information about the injury and any current problems; 2) administering paper-and-pencil and computerized tests to the child to evaluate memory, attention, speed, and other thinking areas; 3) gathering relevant background information from the child and caregiver; and 4) providing feedback to the caregiver, child, and professionals about the test results and how best to support recovery.

How much time do assessments take?

After a concussion, the neuropsychological session typically lasts 4 to 6 hours, which includes work with the child and discussion with the caregivers. In some situations, assessments can take more time, such as when concussions have occurred many months prior to the evaluation or after more severe injuries.

Who should be present at the session?

In addition to the child or teen, at least one caregiver needs to be present for the neuropsychological session. If possible, it can be helpful to have both parents present, especially if they have different information or concerns about the child's concussion history.

How will I find out about the results?

In most cases, the neuropsychologist will provide preliminary feedback about the results after the evaluation is completed. In some cases, the feedback meeting may be scheduled on a separate day. In all cases, a report is written summarizing the results and recommendations. The report is sent directly to the family and typically to primary healthcare providers and other involved professionals (with parental consent).

How do I make an appointment?

A referral has been made for you and you should get a call to set up an appointment within 72 hours.

Some neuropsychology locations include:

Janice Sammons, PhD
1980 E Fort Lowell Rd #150
Tucson, AZ 85719
(520) 296-4280

Jill Caffrey, PhD
1845 W Orange Grove Rd
#111
Tucson, AZ 85704
(520) 329-8298

Neuropsychology Limited
7461 E Tanque Verde Rd
Tucson, AZ 85715
(520) 352-9955

Patricia Beldotti, PsyD
1955 W Grant Rd #125
Tucson, AZ 85745
(520) 282-2590

Glenn Marks, PhD
430 N Tucson Blvd
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 299-4806

2650 N Wyatt Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 322-366