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Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

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What cognitive domains are most likely to be affected by which treatments?

What are the most appropriate neuropsychological tests for studying neurocognitive side effects of cancer treatments?

Additionally, the bulk of the research has been conducted on highly educated, affluent, Caucasian samples (primarily women); therefore, little is known about neurocognitive side effects of cancer treatments across various racial and socioeconomic groups. Therefore, there is a critical need for large scale, longitudinal studies of treatment-induced cognitive changes that include appropriate neuropsychological test batteries and comparison groups, and utilize appropriate statistical methods.

Memorial Sloan Kettering provides a unique environment for conducting these types of studies across various treatment types and cancer diagnoses. Excellent research in the areas of assessment and treatment of cognitive dysfunction in patients with brain tumors and CNS lymphoma (Denise Correa, PhD) and the evaluation of the cognitive impact of chemotherapy on elderly breast cancer patients is ongoing at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The Neurocognitive Research Laboratory, with Dr. Tim Ahles as Director, will support ongoing research in this area and expand the research into other areas as well.

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