

CADTH Reference List

Screening for Cognitive Impairment in Asymptomatic Community-Dwelling Older Adults: A 2022 Update

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Key Messages

- No evidence was identified regarding the clinical utility of screening for cognitive impairment in asymptomatic community-dwelling older adults.
- Two evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of screening for cognitive impairment in asymptomatic community-dwelling older adults.

Research Questions

1. What is the clinical utility of screening for cognitive impairment in asymptomatic community-dwelling older adults?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of screening for cognitive impairment in asymptomatic community-dwelling older adults?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

The literature search strategy used in this report is a modified, updated version of 1 developed for a previous CADTH report. A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, PsycINFO, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the International HTA Database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were screening, cognitive impairment, and community-dwelling older adults or primary care settings. CADTH-developed search filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or network meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials or controlled clinical trials, and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The initial search was limited documents published between January 1, 2015 and September 29 to 30, 2020. For the current report, database searches were rerun on January 12, 2022 to capture any new or modified records since the initial search date. The search was also limited to English language documents. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when available.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description
Population	Community-dwelling adults (age 65 years or older) without symptoms of cognitive impairment
Intervention	Screening for dementia or mild cognitive impairment using a clinician- or self-administered instrument
Comparators	Q1: No screening Q2: Not applicable
Outcomes	Q1: Clinical utility (e.g., health care utilization, health effects of false-positive or -negative test result, cognitive function, quality of life, depression, anxiety, mortality, harms) Q2: Recommendations regarding the appropriate use of screening for dementia or mild cognitive impairment (e.g., whether to screen, and at what time intervals)
Study designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, evidence-based guidelines

Results

Two evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of screening for cognitive impairment in asymptomatic community-dwelling older adults.^{1,2} No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, or randomized controlled trials were identified regarding the clinical utility of screening for cognitive impairment in asymptomatic community-dwelling older adults.

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in Appendix 1.

References

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

1. Ismail Z, Black SE, Camicioli R, et al. Recommendations of the 5th Canadian Consensus Conference on the diagnosis and treatment of dementia. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2020 Aug;16(8):1182-1195. [PubMed](#)
2. Tang-Wai DF, Smith EE, Bruneau M-A, et al. CCCDTD5 recommendations on early and timely assessment of neurocognitive disorders using cognitive, behavioral, and functional scales. *Alzheimers Dement (N Y)*. 2020 Nov 11;6(1):e12057. [PubMed](#)

Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Previous CADTH Reports

3. Screening for cognitive impairment in asymptomatic community-dwelling older adults: clinical utility and guidelines. (*CADTH rapid response report: reference list*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2020 Oct: <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/2020/RA1143%20Cognitive%20Impairment%20Final.pdf>. Accessed 2022 Jan 14.