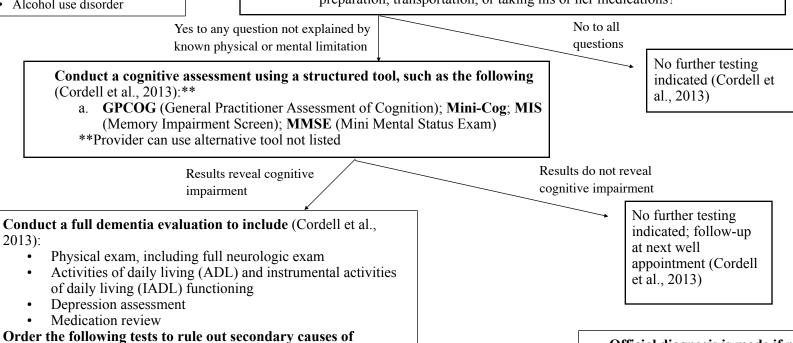
DDx ("Alzheimer dementia," 2018):

- Mild cognitive impairment
- Normal aging
- Depression
- Delirium
- Stroke
- Chronic subdural hematoma
- Transient global amnesia
- Vitamin B12 or folate deficiency
- Alcohol use disorder

Alzheimer Work-up Algorithm

Question patient about the following (Cordell et al., 2013):

- a. In last 12 months, has patient experienced confusion or memory loss that is happening more often or getting worse?
- b. In past 7 days, has patient needed help to perform everyday activities such as eating, getting dressed, grooming, bathing, or using the toilet?
- c. In past 7 days, has patient needed help with household activities, such as laundry and housekeeping, banking, shopping, using the telephone, food preparation, transportation, or taking his or her medications?



Order the following tests to rule out secondary causes of cognitive impairment ("Alzheimer dementia," 2018):

- Complete blood count, thyroid-stimulating hormone, serum B12, serum electrolytes, liver enzymes, fasting glucose, renal functions, serum folic acid
- *In appropriate patients or those with a history of prior infection, consider testing for neurosyphilis, HIV infection. lyme disease ("Alzheimer's dementia," 2018).

Provider's discretion to order CT or MRI

Conflicting recommendations by multiple professional organizations ("Alzheimer dementia," 2018; Cordell et al., 2013; O'Brien et al., 2017; Patel, Eisentein, & Holland, 2016)

Official diagnosis is made if no underlying cause is found to explain cognitive impairment and patient has two or more of the following characteristics ("Alzheimer dementia," 2018):

- impaired ability to acquire and recall new information
- poor judgment or impaired reasoning
- impaired visuospatial skills
- impaired language function
- personality or behavior changes

Brittanie Smith