**Stages of the *Global Deterioration Scale***

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| **GDS Stage** | **Clinical Phase** | **Clinical Characteristics** |
| 1.No cognitive decline | Normal | No complaints of memory impairment, no evidence of memory impairments in the clinical interview. |
| 2. Very mild cognitive decline | Forgetfulness | Subjective complaints of memory impairment, such as decline, forgetting where one has placed familiar objects, or forgetting formerly well-known names. No objective evidence of memory impairment in the clinical interview. No objective impairment in work or social situations. Patient is appropriately concerned with regard to symptoms. |
| 3. Mild cognitive decline | Early confusional | The patient exhibits the fist obvious impairments. Exhibits more than one of the following: (1) The patient gets lost when traveling to an unfamiliar location. (2) Co-workers are aware of patient’s impairments. (3) Family or caregivers note word-retrieval and naming impairments. (4)The patient does not remember material from recently read printed material. (5) The patient has unusual difficulty in remembering names upon introduction to new people. (6) The patient loses or misplaces items of value. (7) Attentional impairments are obvious in clinical testing. Objective evidence of the patient’s memory impairment is observable only with an intensive interview conducted by a trained professional. The patient exhibits impaired performance in demanding work and social situations. The patient begins to deny impairments and exhibits mild to moderate anxiety. |
| 4. Moderate cognitive decline | Late confusional | The patient exhibits obvious impairments in a careful clinical interview. Impairments consist of: (1) Diminished knowledge of current and recent events. (2) Mild impairment of personal history. (3) Attentional impairments on difficult tasks. (4) Impaired ability to travel, handle personal finances, and so on.  The patient usually has minimal or no impairments in: (1) Orientation to time and person. (2) Recognition of familiar persons and faces. (3) Ability to travel to familiar locations. |
| 5. Moderately severe cognitive decline | Early dementia | The patient can no longer survive without assistance from others. In a clinical interview patients cannot provide major, relevant, current information (such as address or telephone number, the names of close members of their family, the name of the high school or college from which they graduated.) The patient frequently exhibits some disorientation to time (date, day, season) or place. The patient knows his own name and usually knows the names of spouse and children. He or she eats and toilets him or herself unassisted but may need assistance in choosing what to wear. |
| 6. Severe cognitive decline | Middle dementia | The patient may occasionally forget the name of his or her spouse or primary caregiver. The patient is largely unaware of recent events and experiences, but retains sketchy knowledge of his or her past life. The patient is generally disoriented to time and place. The patient usually requires assistance with activities of daily living, and may be incontinent. The patient may retain the ability to travel to familiar locations, but cannot travel to unfamiliar locations without assistance. The patient remembers his or her own name and recognizes familiar persons. Personality and emotional change become obvious, and may include: (1) Delusional behavior. They may accuse their spouse of being an imposter, talk to imaginary persons, or to their own image in the mirror. (2) Obsessive behavior, such as continual repetition of a simple cleaning activity. (3) Anxiety, agitation, and occasional violent behavior. (4) Loss of willpower because the patient cannot maintain thought long enough to determine a purposeful course of action. |
| 7. Very severe cognitive decline | Late dementia | The patient loses all verbal ability. Speech may consist only of grunting. The patient is incontinent of urine and requires assistance with eating and toileting. The patient loses the ability to walk. Generalized neurologic signs and symptoms are obvious. |

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