

About Cognition

Intellectual disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning (reasoning, learning, problem solving) and in adaptive behavior, which covers a range of everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 18.

Areas that may be effected include reading, mathematics, writing, and also may include processing and/or sensory input/output limitations.

See Diagnosis Specific Information Section

- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Learning Disability (LD)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Executive Function Disorders (EFD)
- Age Related Cognitive Disorders (ARC)

Types of Cognitive Challenges

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

According to the National Institute of Mental Health Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is characterized by: Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts; Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities; Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period (typically recognized in the first two years of life); and, symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, sensory, or other important areas of current functioning.

Within the ASD category there are different presentations of the disorder:

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD),
- Retts syndrome
- Childhood disintegrative disorder.

See ASD section for more information and resources on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Source: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/autism-spectrum-disorders-asd/index.shtml>

Learning Disabilities (LD)

A learning disability is a neurological disorder. In simple terms, a learning disability results from a difference in the way a person's brain processes or receives information. A learning disability can't be cured or fixed; it is a lifelong issue. With the right support and intervention, however, persons with learning disabilities can succeed in school and go on to have successful, often distinguished careers later in life. Some specific types of learning disabilities are:

- Dyslexia,
- Dyscalculia,
- Dysgraphia,
- Auditory and Visual Processing Disorders
- Nonverbal Learning Disorders.

Often ADD with or without Hyperactivity occur together with a learning disability, but they are not the same as a learning disability.

See LD section for more information and resources on learning disabilities

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Traumatic brain injury (TBI), a form of acquired brain injury, occurs when a sudden trauma causes damage to the brain. TBI can result when the head suddenly and violently hits an object, or when an object pierces the skull and enters brain tissue. Symptoms of a TBI can be mild, moderate, or severe, depending on the extent of the damage to the brain. Disabilities resulting from a TBI depend upon the severity of the injury, the location of the injury, and the age and general health of the individual. Some common disabilities include problems with cognition (thinking, memory, and reasoning), sensory processing (sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell), communication (expression and understanding), and behavior or mental health (depression, anxiety, personality changes, aggression, acting out, and social inappropriateness)

Types of TBI include:

- Post-Concussive Syndrome
- Coup-Contrecoup
- Diffuse Axonal
- Penetration

For more information and resources on traumatic brain injury please see the TBI section

Source: <http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/tbi/tbi.htm>

Executive Function Disorders (EFD)

Executive function disorder is a problem with analyzing, planning, organizing, scheduling, and completing tasks at all — or on deadline. A person with EFD might have difficulty organizing information before storing it in memory, or difficulty organizing information that is retrieved from memory. It is similar to ADHD but will not be helped by medical stimulants in the way that ADD/ADHD will be.

For more information and resources on Executive Function Disorders see the EFD section.

Source: <http://www.additudemag.com/adhd/article/7051-2.html>

Age Related Cognitive Disorders (ARC)

Dementia is a general term for loss of memory and other mental abilities severe enough to interfere with daily life. It is caused by physical changes in the brain. While most commonly seen with aging, these conditions can have an earlier onset.

Types of Cognitive Disorders include:

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Vascular Dementia
- Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB)
- Mixed dementia
- Parkinson's Disease
- Frontotemporal dementia
- Huntington's Disease
- Wernick-Korsakoff Syndrome

For more information and resources on Age Related Cognitive disorders please see the ARC section.

Source: <http://www.alz.org/dementia/types-of-dementia.asp>

