INTERPRETING THE TYM

WHAT IS A NORMAL TYM SCORE?

From age 18 years to age 70 years the normal score is 47/50
From age 70 years to age 80 years the normal score is 46/50
Over the age of 80 years the normal score is 45/50

HOW WELL DO PATIENTS WITH MILD ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE (AD) OR MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT (MCI) DO THE TYM?

The average score for patients with mild AD 33/50
The average score for patients with moderate AD on the TYM is 25/50

Patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) – organic memory problems which may or may not progress to Alzheimer’s disease may score much better. An average score for the best MCI is 45/50 with particular problems with recall of the learnt sentence

HOW DO I INTERPRET A SCORE BETWEEN 37 AND 47?

The TYM test is part of the assessment of a patient with memory problems and the TYM score alone cannot be used as a substitute for a clinical opinion but 93% of patients with AD score 42 or less.

CAN YOU USE THE TYM AS A SCREENING TEST?

Yes with some caution. A person in whom you have a low suspicion of organic memory problems who scores well on the TYM is highly unlikely to have AD.

CAN I USE THE TYM AS A DIAGNOSTIC TEST?

No a low TYM score is a sign that a patient needs further assessment but is not a diagnostic test for AD