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Memory Evaluation

June 16, 2025

Samuel Tolbert, MD
Tolbert & Greer Internal Medicine
Cleveland, Tennessee

Re: Lorraine M. Pruitt, date of birth 02/11/1945. Seen June 12, 2025, with her son.

Dear Dr. Tolbert,

Thank you for sending Mrs. Pruitt, an 80-year-old right-handed widow with 12 years of education, for evaluation of memory loss.

History

Her son describes about two years of gradual decline: repeated questions, missed medications without supervision, a stove left on twice this spring, and one episode of getting lost on a familiar two-mile drive. She stopped managing her checkbook in 2023. She still dresses and feeds herself, attends church and recalls remote events in detail. Mood has been better on sertraline. She uses hearing aids. Her mother had "hardening of the arteries" late in life.

Examination

Alert, pleasant and well groomed. Speech fluent. Cranial nerves normal with hearing aids in place. Strength full. Reduced vibration sense at both feet. Gait slow and slightly wide-based; she uses a walker outdoors.

Montreal Cognitive Assessment: 19 out of 30. Points lost: delayed recall 0 of 5, orientation 4 of 6, clock drawing 1 of 3, serial subtraction 1 of 3, verbal fluency 0 of 1, sentence repetition 1 of 2. Naming and attention to digits were intact.

Functional Assessment Staging: stage 4.

Tests

Vitamin B12 and TSH from your office are normal. I have ordered an MRI of the brain without contrast.

Impression

Mild dementia, most likely Alzheimer's disease, with a possible vascular contribution.

Plan

1. Start donepezil 5 mg at bedtime. If tolerated, increase to 10 mg at the three-month visit.
2. Stop gabapentin, which may be adding to dizziness and slowed thinking.
3. Supervision of medications should continue. I agree with the home aide and the medical alert pendant.
4. Driving: short daytime trips on familiar roads only, to be reviewed at each visit. I will ask for a formal driving evaluation if there is any further incident.
5. A kitchen range shutoff device is advised.
6. Powers of attorney are already in place (2023), with her son Walter Pruitt Jr. as agent.

I will see her again in three months.

Sincerely,

Rohan Mehta, MD