THE ART and SCIENCE of DIAGNOSIS

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Diagnosis in Medical Assessments  
Vs 
Medical Treatment

• In Medical Treatment information provided by patient is to best knowledge of patient to aid diagnosis, treatment and improvement.

• In medical assessments information provided by patient and/or parties is often biased to obtain a set outcome.
Factors affecting Diagnosis

The factors affecting diagnosis remain the same as those discussed by Dr Hu.

- Disease factors
- Patient factors
- Limits of Diagnostic Information
- Doctor Factors
- System Factors
Case - R

History
• 72 year old man with memory problems and word finding difficulties.
• Referred for assessment of “Solvent Neurotoxicity”
• Employed for 8 years in solvent recycling plant
• Memory problems commenced after he ceased work at age 65.
Case - R

- Very Poor Historian
- History from wife – “used to come home high after work”
- MRI scan of brain – no focal abnormality
- Psychometric testing (x2) – generalised cognitive deficits.

BUT
Case - R

Further History

• 2000 – Diagnosed as maturity onset diabetic (poorly controlled)
• 2001 – Cardiopulmonary bypass surgery with prolonged unconsciousness
• 2001/2 – Diagnosed with severe sleep apnoea – history of poor compliance with CPAP machine
• 2005 – legionella pneumonia with ICU admission, severe fever and delirium
Case - R

What is the correct diagnosis?