



**NSW State
Conference**
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THE ART and SCIENCE of DIAGNOSIS

Mark Burns

MBBS MSafSc FAFOEM(RACP) FAADEP

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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?**