

How to Perform the SSF

1. Show the A5 sized card to the patient and introduce the test by saying; “ I would like to do a short test of your concentration. Can you see the squares on the piece of card? I am going to point to a sequence of squares with my finger and I would like you to repeat what I do by pointing with your finger to the same sequence of squares in the same order as me. For example: (point to the second square for one second and then slowly move your finger to the sixth square for one second saying) “I would like you to copy this” (point to the same two squares again as if you are the patient)
2. “Does that make sense?” Explain again if any uncertainty
3. “Are you comfortable and ready to start? The test starts with just 2 squares but I will keep making the sequence longer until you get stuck- don’t worry when that happens as that is normal”
4. Point to the sequences in this order:
2-6; 2-7-5; 3-2-8-4; 5-3-4-6-1 ; 1-7-2-8-5-4
5. You should linger on each square for one second
6. Keep going until the patient makes an error; note this and then try the second test of this trial (in column B below) i.e. if the patient fails the sequence of 4 (3-2-8-4), you should then perform the sequence of 4 from column B (2-6-1-5). If the patient fails the second attempt, stop and mark them as the last correctly repeated sequence, in this case the patient scores 3. If the patient succeeds at the second attempt, proceed to the sequence of 5 in column A. Hence, the patient is allowed 2 trials if necessary at every stage in order to proceed to the next stage.

Column A- Trial 1	Column B- Trial 2
2-6	8-4
2-7-5	8-1-6
3-2-8-4	2-6-1-5
5-3-4-6-1	3-5-1-7-2
1-7-2-8-5-4	7-3-6-1-4-8
8-2-5-3-4-1-6	4-2-6-8-3-7-5