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Psychomotor Retardation

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Synonyms

[Psychomotor slowing](#)

Definition

Psychomotor retardation is a visible slowing of cognitive and/or physical activity, resulting in slowed performance and reduced accuracy on visual, auditory, and motor tasks. It is often seen in clinical depression or bipolar depression as well as in various neurological conditions such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, hydrocephalus, carbon monoxide poisoning, and diabetes mellitus. Aging results in slowing all aspects of behavior, such as reduced rate of ambulation or dressing, delayed responses to questions, and low scores on neuropsychological tests such as finger tapping and Trail Making. Effects may be seen in compromised daily activities such as balancing one's checkbook, making a shopping

list, and decision-making. The etiology of psychomotor retardation can be variable, resulting from impaired functioning of multiple cortical or subcortical areas that create patterns of mental inefficiency, such as reduced auditory span, diminished concentration, poor accuracy, and impaired coordination.

Cross-References

► [Lethargy](#)

References and Readings

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