

TABLE 10-10: Evaluation of Altered Mental Status in Patients with HIV/AIDS

Physical/neurological examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal deficits, which may indicate space-occupying lesion, e.g., CNS lymphoma, toxoplasmosis, progressive leukoencephalopathy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory changes, which may indicate peripheral neuropathy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ataxia or changes in gait, which may indicate myelopathy
Laboratory analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC with differential
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum chemistries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arterial blood gas in patients with pneumonia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDRL, fluorescent treponemal antibody
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B₁₂, folate
MRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To rule out space-occupying lesions (PML, lymphoma)
Lumbar puncture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To rule out acute infection (herpes, cryptococcal meningitis)
Neuropsychological testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIDS dementia rating scale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finger-tapping test
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail-making test

Source: Adapted from Bialer PA, Wallack JJ, McDaniel JS. Human immunodeficiency virus and AIDS. In *Psychiatric Care of the Medical Patient*. Stoudmire A, Fogel BS, Greenberg DB, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 871-88, 2000.