

Geriatrics Crash Course

Elizabeth Landsverk MD

ElderConsult Medical Associates

www.elderconsult.com

elandsverk@elderconsult.com

Consultant to the San Francisco Elder Abuse Forensics Center

- 1- For this person what makes life worth living? Goals of care.
- 2- What is their decision-making capacity?
If difficult to determine, but concerning events;
neuropsychologic testing needed
- 3- Is this person safe? What is the family dynamics?
Caring advocate and protection from undue influence
are crucial to the person's wellbeing
- 4- What is their function? What medical issues do they have?
Very low threshold to consult the physical,
occupational therapist. Also very important to keep the
person active, physically and mentally.
- 5- What medications is this on that can cause confusion,
debility, medical complications?
- 6- What are the options for this person's care?
- 7- Is this person in pain? Why? Are the pain medications
effective?

8- Does this person have an Advance Directive?

Have they expressed their wishes? Does the family understand and respect the wishes? Does the family understand dementia (if present)?

9- Dementia? What is the likely progression?

Alzheimer's

Vascular

Alcoholic

Lewy Body

Frontal

10- Family or Patient concerns?