DIGIT SPAN TEST

1. Gain the patient's attention, eliminate extraneous noise.

2. Instruct the patient, "I am going to ask you to repeat some numbers after me. First I will say them, then you say them." (e.g., "If I say '3, 8', you would say ____?").

3. Once patient appears to understand the instructions, begin by asking him to repeat three random single numbers, spoken in a monotone at one-second intervals (e.g., 3, 8, 2).

4. Repeat the task by increasing the repetition from three to four, then five random numbers.

[Patients with delirium are usually unable to repeat 5 random numbers correctly]