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Neuropsychological Outcomes after Cardiac Surgery

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Our heart and our mind are undoubtedly connected. But have you ever considered the physiological connection between these organs, and what might happen to the brain if the heart is injured? Cardiac surgery is one of the most prevalent medical procedures in Canada. After surgery, over half of these cardiac patients experience deficits in memory, attention and thinking speed – collectively known as cognition. Evaluating cognitive impairment is challenging, especially during a pandemic. To address this, our clinical research uses state of the art virtual testing methodology to assess cognitive recovery among cardiac surgery patients before and after their surgery. The goal of this project is to identify risk factors that may contribute to the cognitive impairments observed. Ultimately, the findings of this study may inform clinical practice and the design of preventative or therapeutic strategies to promote cognitive recovery, improve quality of life and optimise healthcare resource expenditure.