

Characteristics of Dementia Types

Alzheimer's Disease	Vascular Dementia:	Dementia with Lewy Bodies:	Frontotemporal Dementia
Progressive Characteristics			
Can be associated with a gradual decline in the person's ability to remember, understand, communicate, and reason.	Can be associated with gradual decline in functioning or sudden decline following a further stroke.	Can progress more rapidly and experience visual hallucinations and have difficulty with balance and judging distance.	In the early stages, people generally experience behavioral changes associated with damage to the front of the brain. Later in the disease, symptoms will visually appear to be similar to those of Alzheimer's disease.
Cognitive Impairment: Memory and decision making			
Reduced ability to remember, think and make decisions. Regularly forgetting recent events, name, and faces. Regularly misplacing items or putting them in odd places. Confusion about the time of day. Disorientation and getting lost especially away from normal surroundings.	Impaired judgement and inability to plan the steps to complete a task, rather than memory loss.	Changes in alertness, attention and confusion, which may be unpredictable and change from hour to hour or day to day.	Difficulty recognising people or knowing what objects are for. Day-to-day memory may remain intact in the early stages, but problem with attention and concentration could give the impression of memory problems. Difficulty with simple plans and decisions.
Cognitive Impairment: Communications			
Communication and language become more difficult. Problems finding the right words.	Problems with communication.	Problems with communication.	Decline in language abilities including difficulty getting words out or understanding words. Repeating commonly used words and phrases, or forget the meaning of words. Personality changes including changes in how people express their feelings towards others or a lack of understanding of other people's feelings.

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Functional Limitations: Difficulties with daily activities

<p>Frequent problems sleeping and restlessness at night. Increasingly unsteady on their feet and fall more often. Gradually requiring more help with daily activities such as dressing, toileting and eating.</p>	<p>Difficulty walking or changes in the way of walking. Frequent urge to urinate or other bladder symptoms although can be common in older age.</p>	<p>Parkinson's disease type symptoms such as slowed movements, muscle stiffness and tremors. Sleep disturbances causing people to move or talk in their sleep. Fainting, unsteadiness and falls.</p>	<p>Changes in food preference, over-eating, or over-drinking.</p>
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Behavioural Manifestation: Hallucinations

<p>Visual hallucinations where they see objects, animals or people that aren't there.</p>		<p>Visual hallucinations where they see objects, animals or people that aren't there.</p>	
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Behavioural Manifestation: Behaviour and personality

<p>Mood and behaviour problems such as apathy, irritability, or losing confidence with some people can become sad or depressed. Increased anxieties, phobias, anger or agitation.</p>	<p>More emotional and personality changes including mood fluctuations more prominent, depression and apathy (becoming disinterested in things).</p>		<p>Lack of personal and social awareness including failure to maintain their normal level of personal hygiene and grooming. Lack of interest or concern, become disinhibited or behaving inappropriately. Making inappropriate jokes, lack of tact. Some people become impulsive or easily distracted. Changes in their humour or sexual behaviour, becoming violent, develop unusual beliefs, interests or obsessions. Lack of awareness of any personality or behaviour changes.</p>
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