Dementia

URL of this page: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/dementia.html

Also called: Senility

Dementia is the name for a group of symptoms caused by disorders that affect the brain. It is not a specific disease. People with dementia may not be able to think well enough to do normal activities, such as getting dressed or eating. They may lose their ability to solve problems or control their emotions. Their personalities may change. They may become agitated or see things that are not there.

Memory loss is a common symptom of dementia. However, memory loss by itself does not mean you have dementia. People with dementia have serious problems with two or more brain functions, such as memory and language. Although dementia is common in very elderly people, it is not part of normal aging.

Many different diseases can cause dementia, including Alzheimer's disease and stroke. Drugs are available to treat some of these diseases. While these drugs cannot cure dementia or repair brain damage, they may improve symptoms or slow down the disease.

NIH: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Start Here

  Also available in Spanish [http://familydoctor.org/familydoctor/es/diseases-conditions/dementia.printerview.all.html]
- Dementia [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/dementias/dementia.htm] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nia.nih.gov/node/828]

Overviews

- Dementia [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/dementia/DS01131/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Dementia (Including Alzheimer Disease) (Beyond the Basics) [http://www.uptodate.com/contents/dementia-including-alzheimer-disease-beyond-the-basics?view=print] (UpToDate)
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/trastornos/la_demencia.htm]

Latest News

• More News on Dementia [http://www.nim.nih.gov/medlineplus/alphanews_d.html#dementia]

Diagnosis/Symptoms
• Brain Autopsy [http://www.theaftd.org/frontotemporal-degeneration/autopsy] (Association for Frontotemporal Dementias)
• Dementia: Diagnosis and Tests [http://www.healthinaging.org/aging-and-health-a-to-z/topic:dementia/info:diagnosis-and-tests/] (AGS Foundation for Health in Aging)
• Frontotemporal Dementias: Diagnosis [http://www.theaftd.org/frontotemporal-degeneration/diagnosis] (Association for Frontotemporal Dementias)
• Tau/Amyloid Beta 42 Peptide Test (Alzheimer Biomarkers) [http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/tau/tab/test] (American Association for Clinical Chemistry)

Treatment
Also available in Spanish [http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayProduct&productID=1336]

Prevention/Screening
• Brain Health [http://www.alz.org/we_can_help_brain_health Maintain your brain.asp] (Alzheimer's Association)

Coping
• Dementia, Caregiving, and Controlling Frustration [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=891] (Family Caregiver Alliance)

Disease Management
• Managing Behaviors [http://www.theaftd.org/support-resources/caregiving-challenges/managing-behaviors] (Association for Frontotemporal Dementias)

Specific Conditions
• Binswanger's Disease [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/binswangers/binswangers.htm] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary
• CADASIL [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/cadasil/CADASIL.htm] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary
• Frontotemporal Dementia (Pick's Disease) [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/picks/picks.htm] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) - Short Summary
- Other Dementias [http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/topics/other-dementias] NIH (National Institute on Aging)
- Vascular Dementia [http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/vascular-dementia/DS00934/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

**Related Issues**

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.alz.org/national/documents/sp_topicsheet_loscentros.pdf]
- Dementia & Driving [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=432] (Family Caregiver Alliance)
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/fact_sheets/view/505?lang=spa]
- Sexuality and Dementia [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=677] (Family Caregiver Alliance)
- Sundowning: Late-Day Confusion [http://www.mayoclinic.com/print/sundowning/HQ01463/METHOD=print] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)

**Videos**


**Financial Issues**


**Clinical Trials**

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Dementia [http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open condition=22Dementia%22] NIH (National Institutes of Health)

**Genetics**

- Frontotemporal Dementia: Genetics [http://www.thefaultd.org/frontotemporal-degeneration/genetics] (Association for Frontotemporal Dementias)
subcortical-infarcts-and-leukoencephalopathy] **NIH** (National Library of Medicine)
- Genetics Home Reference: CHMP2B-related frontotemporal dementia
- Genetics Home Reference: Frontotemporal dementia with parkinsonism-17
- Genetics Home Reference: GRN-related frontotemporal dementia
- Genetics Home Reference: Inclusion body myopathy with early-onset Paget disease and frontotemporal dementia
- Genetics Home Reference: Myoclonic epilepsy with ragged-red fibers

**Research**
- Frontotemporal Disorders (Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration)

**Journal Articles**

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)
- Article: Is there any way I can prevent, or at least... [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23802333?
tool=MedlinePlus]

**Dictionaries/Glossaries**

**Directories**
- Family Care Navigator: State-by-State Help for Family Caregivers
  [http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/fcn_content_node.jsp?nodeid=2083] (Family Caregiver Alliance)

**Organizations**
- American Geriatrics Society [http://www.americangeriatrics.org/]
  Also available in Spanish [http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nia.nih.gov/Espanol/]

**Statistics**
- Caregiving for Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementia [http://www.cdc.gov/aging/caregiving/alzheimer.htm] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Seniors

- Dementia: Unique to Older Adults [http://www.healthinaging.org/aging-and-health-a-to-z/topic:dementia/info:unique-to-older-adults/] (AGS Foundation for Health in Aging)

Patient Handouts

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/007341.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000739.htm]
- Dementia - behavior and sleep problems [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000029.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000029.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000030.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000031.htm]
- Dementia and driving [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000028.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000028.htm]
- Dementia due to metabolic causes [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000683.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000683.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/003326.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000746.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001401.htm]
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000744.htm]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Dementia - behavior and sleep problems [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000029.htm]
- Dementia and driving [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000028.htm]
- Dementia due to metabolic causes [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000683.htm]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

The primary NIH organization for research on Dementia is the National Institute on Aging [http://www.nia.nih.gov/]

Dementia - Multiple Languages [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/languages/dementia.html]

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