

Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease is characterized by brain cell death and is currently considered the most common diagnosis for dementia symptoms. Older adults are more susceptible to this form of dementia. Early signs include depression, short-term memory loss, confusion, mood changes, and trouble speaking and walking as the condition progresses.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is one of the rarest forms of dementia. It progresses rapidly, and people often die within a year of diagnosis. Its symptoms are like other forms of dementia, including confusion, memory loss, agitation, and depression. Those with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease may also experience muscle twitching and stiffness.

Frontotemporal Dementia

Frontotemporal dementia, also known as Pick's disease, is a term used to describe several types of dementia that affects the front and side of the brain – areas that control language and behavior. It can affect people as young as 45 years old. Most of the symptoms of those with frontotemporal dementia revolve around behavior and language, including loss of inhibitions and motivation, compulsive behavior, and forgetting the meaning of common words.

Huntington's Disease

Huntington's disease is a genetic condition, and the onset of dementia symptoms tends to occur in younger adults. Due to the premature breakdown of the brain's nerve cells, this condition can cause dementia and impaired movement. There are two types of Huntington's disease: juvenile and adult-onset, which corresponds to when the symptoms first appear. Symptoms for those with the juvenile form tend to appear during childhood or adolescence, while those with the adult form tend to only

experience symptoms in their 30s or 40s. Besides the physical symptoms of jerking, difficulty walking and trouble swallowing, dementia-related symptoms include difficulty focusing on tasks, impulse control problems, trouble speaking clearly, and difficulty learning new things.

LATE -“Limbic-predominant Age-related TDP-43 Encephalopathy.”

LATE is the newest discovered cause of dementia symptoms and typically affects persons older than 75 years of age. A detection of pathologic TDP-43 protein deposits in the brain, especially in the amygdala and hippocampus, have been identified at autopsy. LATE resembles both Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia, but the difference is it becomes increasingly prevalent every year in advanced old age in contrast to Alzheimer's disease pathology, which tends to level off and perhaps decrease in prevalence among persons beyond age 85 years. The major known risk factors for LATE-NC are genetic.

Lewy Body Dementia

Lewy bodies are small round clumps of protein that build up inside the brain's nerve cells, disrupting neural signals and communication. This causes memory loss, disorientation, and hallucination. Sometimes, people may also have trouble falling asleep at night or unexpectedly fall asleep in the day. Many of the symptoms experienced by people with Lewy body dementia are like those with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease.

Mixed Dementia

Mixed dementia occurs when a person has more than one form of dementia which is relatively common. The most common combination is vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease. While the symptoms vary depending on the varying combination, most people will have trouble speaking and walking as the condition progresses.

Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus

Normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH) is a condition that causes fluid build-up in the brain's ventricles, affecting its tissue and leading to dementia symptoms. Some potential causes of this condition include injury, bleeding, infection, brain tumor, and previous brain surgeries. Those with the condition may experience poor balance, forgetfulness, mood swings, depression, frequent falls, and loss of bowel or bladder control. Unlike many other conditions, NPH may be reversed, controlled, and cured with surgery; hence it is important to seek treatment as early as possible to reduce brain damage.

Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease, at advanced stages, may lead to dementia. Early symptoms include problems with reasoning and judgment and can develop into confusion, hallucinations, irritability, depression, paranoia, and speech difficulties as the condition progresses.

Vascular Dementia

Vascular dementia is becoming a more common form of dementia. It is caused by a lack of blood flow to the brain. It tends to be more prevalent among older adults and may be related to atherosclerotic disease or stroke. Symptoms may appear progressively or suddenly, depending on the cause. In the early stages, confusion and disorientation are common signs, but in the later stages, people may face trouble concentrating and completing tasks. Problems with vision and hallucinations may occur as well.

Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome

Wernicke's disease and Korsakoff syndrome are two separate but linked conditions, often grouped together and known as Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome. Technically, Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome is not a form of dementia but has similar symptoms and hence is often classified under it.

Wernicke disease, also known as Wernicke's encephalopathy, occurs due to bleeding in the lower sections of the brain caused by a vitamin B-1 deficiency. This vitamin deficiency could arise from malnutrition or chronic infections, but the most common cause is alcoholism.

Left untreated, physical symptoms such as double vision and a loss of muscle coordination tend to reduce as signs of Korsakoff syndrome surface. Symptoms of Korsakoff syndrome include difficulty in processing information, learning new skills, and remembering things.