

Dementia

About Dementia

More than 1 in 9 people age 65 and older have Alzheimer's dementia. People 65 and younger can also develop Alzheimer's, but it is much less common. There are multiple causes for dementia. Alzheimer's disease is the most common of all dementia, accounting for 60-80% of people with dementia. This is a result from a buildup of amyloid and tau proteins in the brain. Other causes of dementia include vascular dementia, Lewy Body, fronto-temporal dementia, Parkinson's disease, or mixed dementia.

Dementia Facts



Dementia can Cause Changes to the 5 Senses

There can be many changes to the 5 senses for individuals with dementia. Changes include loss of peripheral vision, inability to filter out background noise, loss or change of taste, and loss of sensibility to temperature changes.

There are Various Stages of Dementia

The Alzheimer's Association classifies Alzheimer's in three stages. Individuals with early (mild) dementia may function independently. Middle or moderate stage dementia individuals experience increased confusion with words, feel moody or withdrawn, and experience changes in their sleep patterns. Late or severe stage dementia individuals lose the ability to respond to their environment.



Caregiving for Elder Individuals

Eighty-three percent of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends, or unpaid caregivers. 48% of caregivers provided care for someone with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.



Prevalence

11.3%

of adults age 65 and older have Alzheimer's Dementia. The percentage of people with dementia increases with age.



Approximately 55 million individuals suffer from dementia. That number is expected to increase to 139 million by 2050.