

Common Symptoms Associated with Dementia

Alzheimer's disease is a brain disease that impairs the brain's normal functioning. Deficits are represented by various symptoms and behavioral changes. The following problems represent the general characteristics usually seen in with a dementia type disease. However, a person may or may not exhibit all of these problems.

General Problems of Dementia

- Memory loss, confusion
- General loss of intellectual abilities
- Unable to follow instructions or perform routine tasks
- Catastrophic reactions (overreacting to overwhelming situations)
- Loss of personality
- Loss of sense of time
- Aphasia - speech and communication difficulties
- Agnosia - inability to recognize common people or objects
- Apraxia - loss of ability to perform purposeful motor movements



General Problems of Behavior

- Denial of problems
- Wandering, sleep disturbances
- Sundowner's Syndrome (behavior worsens in the evening)
- Inappropriate sexual behavior/comments
- Losing/hiding things
- Repetitious actions/questions
- Clinging behavior (following caregiver everywhere)
- Complaints, insults, demanding things

General Problems of Mood

- Depression, suicidal thoughts or feelings
- Apathy or listlessness
- Anger, agitation, anxiety, restlessness
- False ideas and beliefs (delusions)
- Suspiciousness and accusing others
- Paranoia and hallucinations
- Misinterpretations

