

DONT MISTAKE OLD AGE FOR DEMENTIA

Whitley (2021)

Is it DEMENTIA
or
NORMAL AGING?

THE BRIELLE
— AT SEAVIEW —

BY KERRIS ADINA SMITH



WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

The normal aging process can often be mistaken for dementia Lunardo (2016).

Dementia is a syndrome of a group of different symptoms. Leading the brain to not function the way it designed too (National Health Service, 2022). Various higher cortical function is affected such as thinking, the ability to learn and remember things, calculation, judgement and can lead to language barriers. These impairments can be alongside someone not maintaining emotional control, social behaviour or motivation (Denning and Sandilyan, 2015, p.37)

The different types of Dementia

Dementia is not one thing. There are several routes to similar symptoms

Dementia UK (2021)

ALZHEIMER'S 62%

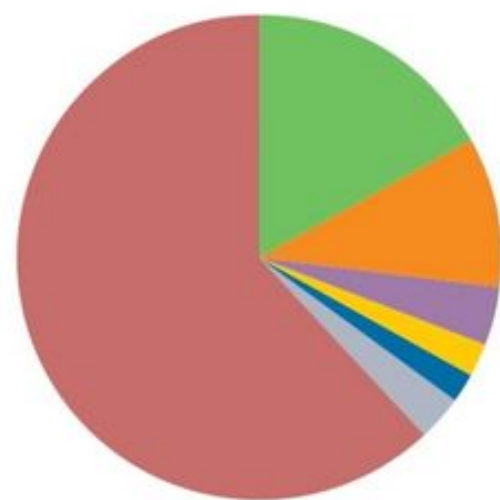
Causes problems with memory, language and reasoning. 5% of cases start before age 65

VASCULAR DEMENTIA 17%

Impaired judgement, difficulty with motor skills and balance. Heart disease and strokes increase its likelihood

MIXED DEMENTIA 10%

Several types of dementia contribute to symptoms. Most common in people over 85



OTHER 3%
Conditions such as Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease; depression; multiple sclerosis

DEMENTIA WITH LEWY BODIES 4%

Caused by Lewy body proteins. Symptoms can include hallucinations, disordered sleep

FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA 2%

Personality changes and language problems. Most common onset between the ages of 45 and 60

PARKINSON'S DISEASE 2%

Can give rise to dementia symptoms as the condition progresses

SOURCE: ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

OLD AGE

Forgetting things occasionally is normal to everyone when they become older. This can be things such as names places but remembering them after taking some time to think. Misplacing things can often happen and having the ability to multitask can be deemed a lot harder. Making a bad decision once in a while is completely normal. A person may go into a room and forget what they wanted for a split second but remembering shortly after is the affects of normal aging Alzheimer's society (2022).

VS

DEMENTIA

A person mental abilities and cognitive function is significantly decline when someone has dementia. This can be someone thinking, reasoning and memory. People with dementia can forget names family members, vistors. Ask the same question constantly. Put objects in unusual place. Poor judgement with money and planning things and unable to concentrate. They can get lost and not remember familiar places. Become irritated, sad, withdrawn, anxious and frightened Alzheimer's society (2022).

STAGES OF DEMENTIA

Early stages (Mild) - Can still be independent such as drive, cook, make decisions but may feel like they have a memory lapse such as forgetting names or familiar locations. New names can be difficult to remember and due to the lack of concentration, tasks, work and social setting can be difficult. Misplacing things can be common.

Middle Stage (Moderate) - This stage is the longest stage. Due to the progression of the disease, a great level of care is needed. They become angry, frustrated and find it hard to to do daily routine tasks with out help.

Late stages (Severe) - Unable to engage in conversations and their movement of their bodies can become difficult. Letting others know the pain they are in can be hard for them. Extensive care is required due to their cognitive skills and memory is at it worst states by this point Alzheimer's Assoiciation (2022).

DEMENTIA UK (2021)



If you have any concerns or questions about dementia, or concerns about family members or friends that are showing signs of dementia please call or email our Admiral Nurses for specialist support and advice

*Call 0800 888 6678 or email
helpline@dementiauk.org*

Reference

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