

# Dementia

Is a Cluster of Symptoms, **NOT** a Disease!

**Confusion**

**Memory Loss**

**Personality Changes:** Usually a deterioration in attitudes that may include agitation, hostility, belligerence, irritability, paranoia

**Difficulty with:** Navigating to familiar places - Church, local store, friend's house  
Executing familiar tasks - Laundry, self-care, using a phone  
Continuing hobbies, outside interests, following tv programs

**Decreased:** Problem solving skills, judgment, concentration, logical thinking. May see Hyper-vigilance.

## Causes of Dementia

“Dementia like symptoms can be caused by numerous factors. The following can present as a false positive for Alzheimer's. They can only be ruled out by appropriate testing.”

<http://www.alzheimersreadingroom.com/2009/03/is-it-really-alzheimers-or-something.html>

**Medication Imbalance**

**UTI**

**Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus** (NPH-impaired flow of the cerebral spinal fluid)

**Neurological Disorders/Conditions** (brain tumors)

**Metabolic & Endocrine** (high/low thyroid or cortisol-stress hormone)

**Infections** (ie. meningitis, encephalitis)

**Dehydration**

**Alcoholism**

**Head Injury/trauma**

**Stroke**

**Chemotherapy**

**Alzheimer's Disease**

# Alzheimer's Disease

**IS:** A real, progressive, fatal neurological disease without a cure.

**IS NOT:** An arbitrary personality change due to simple obstinacy or old age.

There are legitimate physiological changes that occur in the aging process in all organ systems.  
Reflexes aren't as brisk, hearing and vision, memory and concentration often decline, but...

*Just because someone is older does not automatically  
mean they will have debilitating memory loss or confusion.*  
**Betty White** for example is over 90 and still acts!

“Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and affects one in four people over the age of 85, a number that will increase significantly as our population ages.”

<http://csironewsblog.com/2015/02/05/life-animated-in-3-d-alzheimers-disease-and-type-2-diabetes-2/>

**“Memory loss that disrupts everyday life is not a normal part of aging.”** EssentialALZ Training

## Holistic Facial Perception Impairment in Alzheimer's

“A 2016 study confirmed what I and many others involved in Alzheimer's care have already witnessed. *“As Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia advance, the ability to recognize the faces of loved ones diminishes.*”

<http://www.alzheimers.net/6-06-16-people-with-alzheimers-unable-to-recognize-loved-ones/>

**Holistic Facial Perception Impairment!** My mother's shocking inability to recognize the distinct deterioration in her own son's facial features was the very first indication of Alzheimer's yet to be diagnosed. Only in retrospect did this strange but notable incident make sense.

Research substantiates that even early in the deteriorating process of Alzheimer's Disease, people may “miss” the subtle features that distinguish one individual from another.”

<http://www.alzheimersreadingroom.com/2017/12/alzheimers-care-holistic-facial-perception-impairment.html>

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