

## Dementia Facts: Warning Signs, Symptoms & More

**Did you know that Alzheimer's Disease is the most common dementia among 100 different forms?**

A Senior Home Care by Angels caregiver can provide needed relief and support to those who care for family members with dementia. If you act as a caregiver for a loved one, we can make caregiving more manageable and less overwhelming. With Senior Home Care by Angels, older adults can continue to live at home, safely and comfortably.

### Dementia Defined

Dementia is not a disease. It is a condition of a collection of symptoms affecting memory, thinking, communication, reasoning, behaviors, and ability to perform everyday activities.

The symptoms and the progression of dementia vary, depending on the type of disease causing it. Some types progress slowly over years, while others may have a more sudden onset.

Each type of dementia is characterized by different pathological, or structural, changes in the brain.

#### Important Dementia Terms

**PWD** stands for 'Person with Dementia.'

**Cognition** is the ability to think clearly and logically. As a person ages, some cognition may be lost. This is called cognitive impairment. How much cognition is lost depends on the individual. Cognitive impairment affects concentration and

memory. Other normal aging changes in the brain cause slower reaction time, problems finding the right words, and difficulty sleeping.

**Confusion** is the inability to think clearly and logically. It may come on suddenly or gradually and be permanent or temporary.

**Delirium** is a state of severe confusion that occurs suddenly but is usually a temporary condition.

### Common Forms of Other Dementia

Dementia is not a normal part of aging. It is the loss of cognitive functioning. Each form of dementia may present differently.

Some common forms of dementia include:

**Vascular Dementia**, the second most common dementia, occurs because of damage to the vessels that supply blood to the brain. Strokes or other

blood vessel problems can cause blood vessel conditions.

**Lewy Body Dementia** is one of the more common types of progressive dementia. Lewy bodies are abnormal clumps of protein found in the brains of people with Lewy Body Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, and Parkinson's Disease. Half of the individuals with Lewy Body Dementia develop signs and symptoms of Parkinson's Disease.

**Mixed Dementia** studies continue to determine how mixed dementia affects

symptoms and treatments.

Autopsy studies of the brains of people aged 80 and older who had dementia indicate that many had a combination of Alzheimer's Disease, Vascular Dementia, and Lewy Body Dementia.

**Frontotemporal Dementia** is a group of diseases characterized by the breakdown of the areas in the brain, associated with personality, behavior, and language. It usually develops at an earlier age, often in a person in their forties or fifties.

**Parkinson's Disease Dementia** impairs thinking and reasoning. Brain changes initially affect movement, before impacting cognition. Changes in thinking and reasoning are normally noticeable a year prior to a Parkinson's Disease diagnosis.

Consult with your loved one and their primary care physician to formulate a care plan for their needs.



### Locally Owned & Nationally Known

The following services can be provided for a few hours a day up to 24/7 care.

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Assistance with Walking  
Medication Reminders

Errands & Shopping  
Light Housekeeping  
Meal Preparation  
Companion Care

Respite Care for Families  
Transitional Care  
End-of-Life Care



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