

Alzheimer's disease

Also called: senile dementia

A progressive disease that destroys memory and other important mental functions.

Very common

More than 10 million cases per year (India)



Requires a medical diagnosis



Lab tests or imaging not required



Chronic: can last for years or be lifelong

Brain cell connections and the cells themselves degenerate and die, eventually destroying memory and other important mental functions.

Memory loss and confusion are the main symptoms.

No cure exists, but medication and management strategies may temporarily improve symptoms.

Ages affected

0-2

3-5

6-13

14-18

19-40

41-60

60+



Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

Memory loss and confusion are the main symptoms.

People may experience:

Cognitive: mental decline, difficulty thinking and understanding, confusion in the evening hours, delusion, disorientation, forgetfulness, making things up, mental confusion, difficulty concentrating, inability to create new memories, inability to do simple maths, or inability to recognise common things

Behavioural: aggression, agitation, difficulty with self care, irritability, meaningless repetition of own words, personality changes, restlessness, lack of restraint, or wandering and getting lost

Mood: anger, apathy, general discontent, loneliness, or mood swings

Psychological: depression, hallucination, or paranoia

Also common: behavioral symptoms, inability to combine muscle movements, jumbled speech, or loss of appetite

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure that you contact a health care provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Apollo Hospitals and others. [Learn more](#)