

Dementia Types and Symptoms

Dementia is the result of changes in certain brain regions that cause neurons and their connections to stop working properly. Researchers have connected changes in the brain to certain forms of dementia and are investigating why these changes happen in some people but not others.

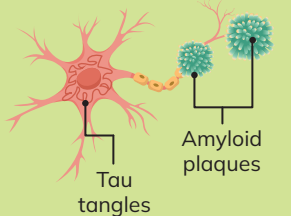


- **Alzheimer's disease** is the most common dementia diagnosis among older adults. It is caused by changes in the brain, including abnormal buildups of proteins known as amyloid plaques and tau tangles.
- **Frontotemporal dementia** is a rare form of dementia that tends to occur in people younger than 60. It is associated with abnormal amounts or forms of the proteins tau and TDP-43.
- **Lewy body dementia** is a form of dementia caused by abnormal deposits of the protein alpha-synuclein, called Lewy bodies.
- **Vascular dementia** is a form of dementia caused by conditions that damage blood vessels in the brain or interrupt the flow of blood and oxygen to the brain.
- **Mixed dementia** is a combination of two or more types of dementia. For example, through autopsy studies involving older adults who had dementia, researchers have identified that many people had a combination of brain changes associated with different forms of dementia.

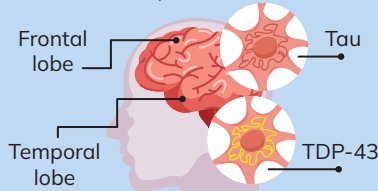
Alzheimer's Disease	Frontotemporal Dementia	Lewy Body Dementia	Vascular Dementia
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What Is Happening in the Brain?*

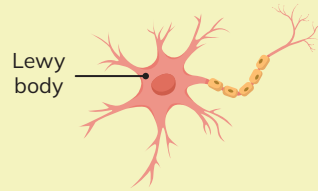
Abnormal deposits of proteins form amyloid plaques and tau tangles throughout the brain.



Abnormal amounts or forms of tau and TDP-43 proteins accumulate inside neurons in the frontal and temporal lobes.



Abnormal deposits of the alpha-synuclein protein, called "Lewy bodies," affect the brain's chemical messengers.



Conditions, such as blood clots, disrupt blood flow in the brain.



**These changes are just one piece of a complex puzzle that scientists are studying to understand the underlying causes of these forms of dementia and others.*

Symptoms

Mild

- Wandering and getting lost
- Repeating questions

Moderate

- Problems recognizing friends and family
- Impulsive behavior

Severe

- Cannot communicate

Behavioral and Emotional

- Difficulty planning and organizing
- Impulsive behaviors
- Emotional flatness or excessive emotions

Movement Problems

- Shaky hands
- Problems with balance and walking

Language Problems

- Difficulty making or understanding speech

Cognitive Decline

- Inability to concentrate, pay attention, or stay alert
- Disorganized or illogical ideas

Movement Problems

- Muscle rigidity
- Loss of coordination
- Reduced facial expression

Sleep Disorders

- Insomnia
- Excessive daytime sleepiness

Visual Hallucinations

- Forgetting current or past events
- Misplacing items
- Trouble following instructions or learning new information
- Hallucinations or delusions
- Poor judgment