

Alzheimer's Disease/Dementias



Alzheimer's Disease

- Is a nerve disease where nerve cells are slowly killed in the brain?
- It can affect memory, the ability reason and understand and personality.
- It is a type of dementia.
- The cause is unknown.
- It progresses through stages: early, middle, late
- Treatment slows down the killing of cells.

Dementia

- It is a decline in intellectual or thinking ability that interferes with social skills or job/school function.
- It can affect memory, judgment, impulse and personality.
- There are several types of dementia.
- There are many causes.
- Problems can be restored in some types of dementias.

Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

- Asking the same question over and over again
- Repeating the same story the same way again and again
- Forgetting how to perform routine activities such as how to cook, or how to make repairs or play a game
- Losing the ability to pay bills or balance a checkbook
- Getting lost in areas well known to that person
- Misplacing household objects
- Forgetting to bathe insist you did bathe
- Wearing the same clothes over and over even if not clean
- Needing help to make decisions or answer questions you used to do with ease



Need HELP? There is HELP!

Start by visiting the doctor for an evaluation. The doctor's suggestions will depend on the type of dementia if it is present. Caregivers don't forget to take care of yourselves!

Resources

[Alzheimer's Association](#)
800-273-2555 (SC)

[National Council on Aging](#)
202-479-1200

[SC Dept of Mental Health](#)
800-763-1024 or
803-898-8581

[National Alliance for the Mentally Ill \(NAMI\)](#)
800-788-5131

[SC Self Help Assoc Regarding Emotions \(SC SHARE\)](#)
800-832-8032

[Mental Health America \(MHASC\)](#)
800-375-9894

[Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities Inc](#)
866-275-7273 or
803-782-0639

[SC Dept of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse](#)
888-727-7383 or
803-896-5555

