

Types of Dementia

Type of Dementia	History	Signs and Symptoms	Pathology/Imaging
Alzheimer's Disease (50–80% of all dementia cases)	Gradual, progressive onset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory loss, especially for names and recent events • Language deficits • Rapid forgetting • Impaired visuospatial skills • Normal gait and neuro exam early • Later affective disturbances; behavioral symptoms such as aggression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalized atrophy (esp. medial temporal) • Beta amyloid plaques • Neurofibrillary tangles
Vascular (20–30%)	Abrupt or gradual onset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal neurological signs • Signs of vascular disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strokes • Lacunar infarcts • White matter lesions • Vulnerable to cerebrovascular events
Lewy Body (10–25%)	Insidious onset, progressive with fluctuations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluctuating cognition • Visual hallucinations • Neuroleptic sensitivity • Shuffling gait • Increased tone • Tremors • Falls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalized atrophy • Lewy bodies in cortex and midbrain
Frontotemporal (10–15%)	Insidious onset, typically in 50s–60s; rapid progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinhibition • Socially inappropriate behavior • Poor judgment • Apathy, decreased motivation • Poor executive function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontal and temporal atrophy • Pick cells and pick bodies in cortex

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