



The stages of Alzheimer's disease

While Alzheimer's disease affects people in different ways, it typically progresses slowly in three general stages.

This chart gives an overall idea of the symptoms at each stage. Keep in mind that some stages may overlap.

EARLY STAGE 2-4 years in duration

- Has problems coming up with the right word or name
- Can't remember names when introduced to new people
- Has problems performing tasks in work or social settings
- Forgets material they have just read
- Loses or misplaces valuable objects
- Has increasing trouble with planning or organizing
- Requires more mental energy to process information
- Prefers familiar people, places and objects

MIDDLE STAGE 2-10 years in duration

- Forgets events or their own personal history
- Is unable to recall their own address or phone number
- Is confused about where they are or what day it is
- Needs help choosing proper clothing
- Has trouble controlling bladder and bowels (in some individuals)
- Develops changes in sleep patterns and appetite
- Wanders or becomes lost
- Exhibits personality or behavior changes, including suspiciousness and delusions or compulsive, repetitive behavior like hand-wringing or tissue shredding

LATE STAGE 2-3 years in duration

- Needs round-the-clock assistance with daily activities and personal care
- No longer recognizes family members
- Loses awareness of recent experiences and of their surroundings
- Has increasing difficulty communicating
- Experiences changes in physical abilities, including the ability to walk, sit and, eventually, swallow
- Loses bowel/bladder control
- Becomes vulnerable to infections, especially pneumonia

For more information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, visit good-sam.com



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