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A Positive Approach to Care: Alzheimer’s…
or Alzheimer’s…
or Memory Problems…

Amanda Bulgarelli and Shelly Edwards

What is True?

1. Dementia = Alzheimer’s = Memory Problems

2. Dementia ≠ Alzheimer’s ≠ Memory Problems

3. Dementia > Alzheimer’s > Memory Problems

FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT ALL DEMENTIAS:
1. At least two parts of your brain are dying
2. Nothing stops or cures it
3. It keeps getting worse and changing
4. It’s terminal
Think for a moment:
When did you first hear the term…
Alzheimer’s?

1990’s
Alzheimers:

- New details lost first
- Recent memory worse
- Some language problems, mis-speaks
- More impulsive or indecisive
- Gets lost – time/place
- Several forms and patterns
- Young onset can vary from late life onset
- Dons is high risk
- Notice changes over time
- Related to beta-amyloid plaques and tau pathologies

When do these symptoms show up?
What does this look like?
What symptoms get missed?
What changes are noticeable?
Why might someone not notice?

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
Alzheimers Disease Progression vs. Normal Brains

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G. Small, UCLA School of Medicine.

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G. Small, UCLA School of Medicine.

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Prefrontal Cortex –
Executive Control Center

Six Functions:
1. Be Logical
2. Impulse Control
3. Make Choices
4. Start>Sequence>End>Move On
5. Accurate Self-Awareness
6. Adapt to Others’ Point of View

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4. It is terminal

Five Ways to Say “I Am Sorry!”

Intent
I'm sorry. I was trying to help

Intelectual Capacity
I'm sorry. I had not right to make you feel that way

Emotion
I'm sorry. I made you feel....

This is Hard
I'm sorry. This is hard. I hate it for you

That Happened
I'm sorry. It should not have happened
**Vision Changes:**
With each new level of vision change, there is a decrease in safety awareness.

- Loss of Peripheral Awareness
- Tunnel Vision
- Binocular Vision
- Binocular + Object Confusion
- Monocular Vision
- Loss of Visual Regard

**Big Vision Changes**

**Hearing Sound** – Unchanged

**Big Language Change**

**Temporal Lobes:**

- Right Temporal: Automatic Speech Rhythm – Music Expletives Preserved
- Left Temporal: Formal Speech and Language Center Huge Changes
Sensory/Motor Area
- How the body sends/receives information and movement
- White matter is the firing space for data

Language Left Temporal (Lost)
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Speech Production

Rhythm Right Temporal (Retained)
- Forbidden Words
- Social Chit-Chat or Turn-taking
- Rhythm of Speech
- Music, Poetry, Prayer, and Counting
- Automatic, Autonomic Movements (Muscle Memory)

What are the Five Tastes?
- Savory
- Sweet
- Salty
- Sour
- Bitter
What Smells Are Important for Survival?

- Smoke
- Gas and Chemicals
- Spoiled Food
- Body Odor – Bacteria
- Urine & Feces

So, does it matter if we know?

- What makes Alzheimers special?
- What are some first signs to look for?
- Is it important for the person living with dementia and their care partners to know their type of dementia?
- Where can you find more information on Alzheimers?
Thank You