Frontotemporal Dementia

What did you notice?

Not Alzheimer’s

Dementia

> Alzheimer’s

> Memory Changes
Similarities:
- Brain atrophy
- Gradual progression
- Cognitive and functional changes

Differences:
- FTD primarily first impacts language and behaviors
- Age of Onset - 60% between 45-64 years old
- Impacts family system differently than older adults
- Misdiagnosis common

Symptoms

Clinical Presentations:
- Behavioral presentation
- Language presentation
- Movement presentation
FTD Subtypes:
- Behavioral Variant FTD
- Primary Progressive Aphasia
- Corticobasal Syndrome
- ALS and FTD
- Progressive supranuclear palsy

Awareness vs. Anosognosia

Getting a Diagnosis
Misdiagnoses Common:

- Rearview mirror clearer
- Consequences prior to diagnosis

- Sense of relief to get diagnosis
- Negative experiences prior to diagnosis
- Empowerment through learning about diagnosis

- Present and future support

Family Structure

- Developmental stage of the family
- Concerns about genetics
- Career and Employment
- Financial implications
- Challenges finding services
Special Considerations

- Nature of symptoms
- High stress
- Isolation due to being a ‘rare’ diagnosis
- Age of onset impacts normalization

Who assists with care
- Young kids in household
- Ambiguous loss

Planning for FTD:

Establishing the care team
Determining goals for care
Support for the person with the diagnosis
Knowledge and support for the care partners