Rare Dementia Support

Advice Community Learning

Rare dementias explained...

further information at www.raredementiasupport.org

Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)

is a group of dementias which mainly affect personality and behavior or language and speech, because of damage to the front or sides of the brain. The behaviour form is called **behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia** or bvFTD.

THE SIX MAIN SYMPTOMS ARE ● **reduced inhibition** ● **loss of motivation** ● **obsessions & compulsions** ● **appetite changes** ● **loss of empathy** ● **difficulties planning, problem solving & decision making**

The language form is called **primary progressive aphasia** or PPA.

Familial Frontotemporal Dementia (fFTD)

In around 30-40% of people diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia, there is a family history of the condition and it is likely to have a genetic cause – we call this familial FTD (fFTD). Of the different forms of FTD, the behavioural variant is the one that is inherited most often. Primary progressive aphasia, and particularly the progressive non-fluent aphasia form, can also have a genetic cause and run in families but it is much rarer.

Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)

is a term that refers to a group of dementias that affect a person's speech and language.

THE THREE MAIN FORMS ARE ● **Progressive non-fluent aphasia** problems producing speech and affecting sentence construction
● **Semantic dementia** affects understanding what words mean
● **Logopenic progressive aphasia** affects word finding

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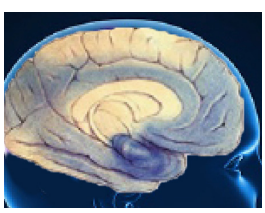
Posterior Cortical Atrophy (PCA)

is a rare form of dementia which can initially cause visual problems because of shrinkage at the back of the brain (brainsight not eyesight).

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE ● **visual and spatial problems with seeing what and where** ● **difficulties with calculation, spelling and writing** ● **trouble hearing and feeling where things are**

EARLY DIFFICULTIES INCLUDE: **getting lost when reading** ● **problems driving and parking** ● **visual problems at work**

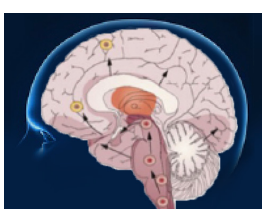


Familial Alzheimer's Disease (FAD)

is an inherited form of Alzheimer's disease. It is caused by a genetic fault that runs within families. People with FAD typically first develop symptoms before the age of 65, most commonly in their 40s or 50s. The initial symptoms of FAD are usually similar to those of typical Alzheimer's disease – primarily memory loss.

Young onset Alzheimer's disease (YOAD)

although often thought of as a disease of older people, around 5% of people with Alzheimer's Disease are under 65. This is called young-onset Alzheimer's. It usually affects people in their 40s, 50s and early 60s. In most cases this is not inherited. People with YOAD are more likely to have prominent language, perception or behavioural changes as well as difficulties with memory.



Lewy Body Dementia (LBD)

is an umbrella term that includes Dementia with Lewy Bodies and Parkinson's Disease Dementia.

THE MAIN SYMPTOMS INCLUDE ● **Changes in thinking and reasoning, especially involving visual judgements** ● **Fluctuations in thinking and memory (problems varying from day to day or even hour to hour)** ● **Visual hallucinations (seeing things that aren't there)** ● **Movement changes like slowness, stiffness and falls** ● **Sleep disorder that involves acting out dreams**

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