

## Recognizing the Symptoms

Sometimes, the early signs are hard to recognize especially those who are close to that individual. It may happen when the individual has no recall of a pivotal life event that is when the family starts to realize that maybe something is wrong with their loved one. Sometimes the symptoms can be very subtle, which really delays that individual from being diagnosed in the early stages. It is so important not to ignore the signs but have your loved one diagnosed as soon as possible, this will offer you and your family several benefits.

## Benefits of Early Recognition

You may have recognized some changes but you wondered "What is the point of bringing this to the physician's attention"? What good would come from having a diagnosis? The truth is that there are many benefits from getting a diagnosis early on.

### **Allows you more opportunity to make use of the resources and treatments.**

The current medical treatments are most effective if used in the early stages of the disease. The more education that you have about the disease and its symptoms will be most helpful to the individual with the disease and all of the family members.

### **You have the opportunity to take care of legal and financial matters as a family**

This will allow the individual to participate in making any decisions about their choice of medical treatment and participate in the decision-making.

### **Safety**

Early diagnosis allows safety issues like driving and wandering to be addressed before a potentially dangerous event occurs.

### **Decreases Anxiety**

It can be very stressful and upsetting for the individual and the family to know that something is not quite right and not knowing what it is.

Getting a diagnosis allows you to have a name to the symptoms. It may be frightening to know and to come to accept but knowing and educating yourself about the disease will lower your levels of stress and anxiety.

## These symptoms may indicate that a medical evaluation is needed

SYMPTOMS	BEHAVIORS
Decreased ability to learn and retain new things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is more repetitive than usual.</li> <li>• Has difficulty remembering recent conversations.</li> <li>• Forgets appointments.</li> <li>• Misplaces objects.</li> </ul>
Difficulty handling complex tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has trouble following a complex train of thought.</li> <li>• Has difficulty following a task that requires following several steps.</li> </ul>
Diminished reasoning abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot express a plan of action when faced with a problem.</li> <li>• Changes with the person's social conduct.</li> </ul>
Impaired spatial and orientation skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has difficulty organizing things.</li> <li>• Gets lost in familiar places.</li> </ul>
Language skills decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has trouble finding words.</li> <li>• Does not appear to be following conversations.</li> </ul>
Changes in behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is more irritable or suspicious than usual.</li> <li>• Lack of initiative.</li> <li>• Misinterprets visual or auditory stimuli.</li> </ul>