

Information about Alzheimer's Disease

What is the cause of Alzheimer's disease?

The specific cause of the disease is not known. Scientists are working hard to find a cause so that they can stop the disease from happening and they're also looking for ways to improve the lives of people that have the disease.

What researchers know for sure is that you can't 'catch' Alzheimer's disease from someone. It isn't contagious like a cold or flu. Also, just because some person in your family has the disease, doesn't mean that you'll get it.

Who can get Alzheimer's disease?

Most people who get the disease are over 65 years of age but sometimes people in their 40s and 50s get it too.

Is there a cure for the disease?

There isn't a cure as yet but there is a classification of medicines called cholinesterase inhibitors. This is the medicine that a person with Alzheimer's disease can take to slow down the disease.

How do you know if someone has Alzheimer's disease?

There has to be a change in the way the person acts. Usually the person has a problem remembering things that they just said or did (**short term memory**) as well as trouble communicating.

There's a chance that something other than Alzheimer's disease may be causing these changes. That's why it's so important for the person to see a doctor. Unfortunately, no one test will tell if a person has the disease. The person may have to take a number of different tests and be seen by doctors who specialize with the concerns of memory.

Commonly Used Terms

1.Dementia;

Deterioration of intellectual faculties, such as memory, concentration, and judgment, resulting from an organic disease or a disorder of the brain. It is sometimes accompanied by emotional disturbance and personality changes.

2.Mild Cognitive Impairment;

Memory loss that is greater than average when compared to someone else their own age.

3.Caregiver;

An individual, such as a physician, nurse, or social worker, who assists in the identification, prevention, or treatment of an illness or disability.

An individual, such as a parent, foster parent, or head of a household, who attends to the needs of a child or dependent adult.