

Communication Disorders in Dementia

"Dementia"

Dementia is a set of symptoms that include memory difficulties, learning difficulties, speech and language difficulties, disorientation in time and space, difficulties in understanding and behavioral changes. Dementia is not part of natural aging and needs to be understood as such and have to be recognized at time to provide adequate support for people with dementia.



Communication Deficits in Dementia

Losing the ability to communicate can be one of the most frustrating and difficult problems for people with dementia, their families and caregivers. As the illness progresses, the person with dementia gradually loses their ability to communicate. They find it more and more difficult to express themselves clearly and to understand what others say.



Speech and Expressive Problems in Dementia

- Difficulty in finding a word – a related word might be given instead of one they cannot remember
- The use of speech that does not make sense
- An inability to understand what others are saying or the ability to only grasp a part of what others are saying
- Impaired Writing and reading skills
- Loss of the normal social conventions of conversation – an increasing tendency to interrupt, ignore a speaker or fail to respond when spoken to
- Difficulty in expressing emotions appropriately.
- Using Insolence words in inappropriate situations.
- Difficulty in Understanding Signs, Alarm or Symbols

