



FISHER CENTER FOR  
**ALZHEIMER'S**  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**ALZHEIMER'S**

**VS**

**DEMENTIA**



**What's The Difference?**



## ALZHEIMER'S VS DEMENTIA

The terms Alzheimer's and Dementia are often used interchangeably, but they have very different meanings. Dementia is a syndrome which describes a wide range of symptoms. These symptoms impact a person's ability to perform everyday activities independently. Alzheimer's is a neurodegenerative disease that is the most common cause of dementia. In Alzheimer's, the brain can show signs of the disease before the person starts experiencing symptoms.

**Alzheimer's accounts for  
60-80% of dementia cases**

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## What is Dementia?

Dementia is the name of a group of symptoms that make it hard to remember, think clearly, make decisions, or even control your emotions. It is important to note that dementia is not a disease per se, and that the occurrence of dementia symptoms are caused by various conditions.

### Conditions that may exhibit Dementia

#### Neurodegenerative Disease

- Alzheimer's disease
- Huntington's disease

#### Lewy Body Dementia

- Dementia with lewy bodies
- Parkinson's disease  
(also a neurodegenerative disease)

#### Infections

- Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)
- AIDS
- Lyme Disease

#### Stroke

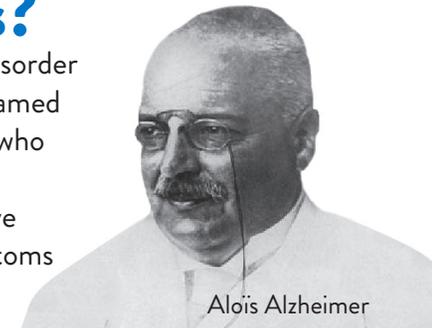
#### Depression

Dementia means deprived of mind. It is usually irreversible with the exception of when it is caused by certain conditions such as vitamin deficiency, underactive thyroid gland, depression, or stress. In these cases, treating the underlying cause can reverse the dementia.

## What is Alzheimer's?

Alzheimer's disease is a neurological brain disorder which causes problems with memory. It is named after a German physician, Alois Alzheimer, who first described it in 1906.

It is important to note that a person can have Alzheimer's without experiencing the symptoms of dementia.



### Top 10 Alzheimer's Signs & Symptoms

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure
4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgement
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood and personality

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Our mission is to understand the causes of Alzheimer's disease;  
improve the care of people living with it and find a cure.



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Charity Navigator's highest 4-Star ranking  
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