



Dementia

Dementia is a progressive brain dysfunction that leads to a gradually increasing restriction of daily activities. The most well know type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease. The causes of dementia include various diseases and infections, strokes, head injuries, drugs, and nutritional deficiencies. All dementias reflect dysfunction in the cerebral cortex, or brain tissue. When the cortical tissue is not damaged the dementia may sometimes be stopped or reversed. The damage of brain cells in both cortical and subcortical areas then treatment is used to slow the progress of the condition or to



relieve the symptoms. Medical care should focus on optimizing the individual's health and quality of life while helping family members cope with the many challenges of caring for a loved one with dementia. Medical care depends on the underlying condition, but it most often consists of medications and non drug treatments such as behavioral therapy.

The National Service Project for 2004-06 was with the Alzheimer's Association. For additional information and ways that you can help, please go to their web site at <http://www.alz.org>.

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