



What is Dementia?

Dementia isn't a disease but a group of symptoms caused by other conditions. It is also called neuro-cognitive disorder. The good news is that some cause are curable. This is the reason why an assessment by a board certified neurologist is very important.

Causes of dementia or delirium that may be reversible include:

- Reaction to medications
- Infections of the brain
- Compromise Immune disorder like leukemia
- Emotional distress, depression
- Poisoning caused by carbon monoxide, heavy metals..
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Tumors
- Subdural hematomas, blood clots beneath the outer covering of the brain
- Normal-pressure hydrocephalus, (a buildup of fluid in the brain_
- Metabolic disorders such as a vitamin B12 deficiency
- Low levels of thyroid hormones, called hypothyroidism
- Low blood sugar, called hypoglycemia
- HIV-associated neuro cognitive disorders (HAND)
- Heart and lung disease causing low oxygen...

The following diseases are partially manageable, but they aren't reversible and get worse over time:

- Alzheimer's disease
- Vascular disorders
- Parkinson's disease
- Lewy bodies
- Frontotemporal disorders (Pick's disease)
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

Note: Acute changes are usually called delirium, are not unusual in elders and fully resolve.