

Dementia Awareness (Unit 1): Session 2 (3½ hours)

Types of Dementia

In the Overview of Dementia we reflected on what the term dementia may come to mean not only to ourselves, but also in the minds of others. In this session we move on to consider the different types of dementia.

Dementia is in fact an umbrella term, used to describe a number of different types and forms.



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e-tivity 2.1 (30 mins)

Purpose

To be introduced to the different types of dementia.

Task

What different types of dementia that you have come across in your professional practice?

(Note to facilitator - suggest in wiki, the umbrella picture above to be pasted, and students should be able to paste their words around/over this picture).

Write around 100 words about your experience of dementia in the...***(Note to facilitator - to suggest a discussion board).***

Respond

Comment on at least two other students from different professional groups to you own of their experience of dementia within their practice setting.(suggest 25 words each)

Now read the follow the following account by Chris Knifton, Senior Lecturer (Mental Health) De Montfort University who is a specialist in dementia

The 3 most common forms of dementia are Alzheimer's, vascular dementia, and dementia with Lewy Bodies. Each may have different signs, symptoms and characteristics, and progression.

Alzheimer's Disease

This is the most common type of dementia, and was first diagnosed by Alois Alzheimer over 100 years ago.



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"Alois Alzheimer," © approx 1915 author uncredited.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Alois_Alzheimer_003.jpg

In this condition, *amyloid*, an abnormal protein, becomes laid out in areas of the brain forming *plaques*. This affects how neurons work, and in particular it is believed it causes abnormal *tau protein* to be produced, resulting in cell structure change and its eventual collapse. Collapsed cells are said to form *tangles*.

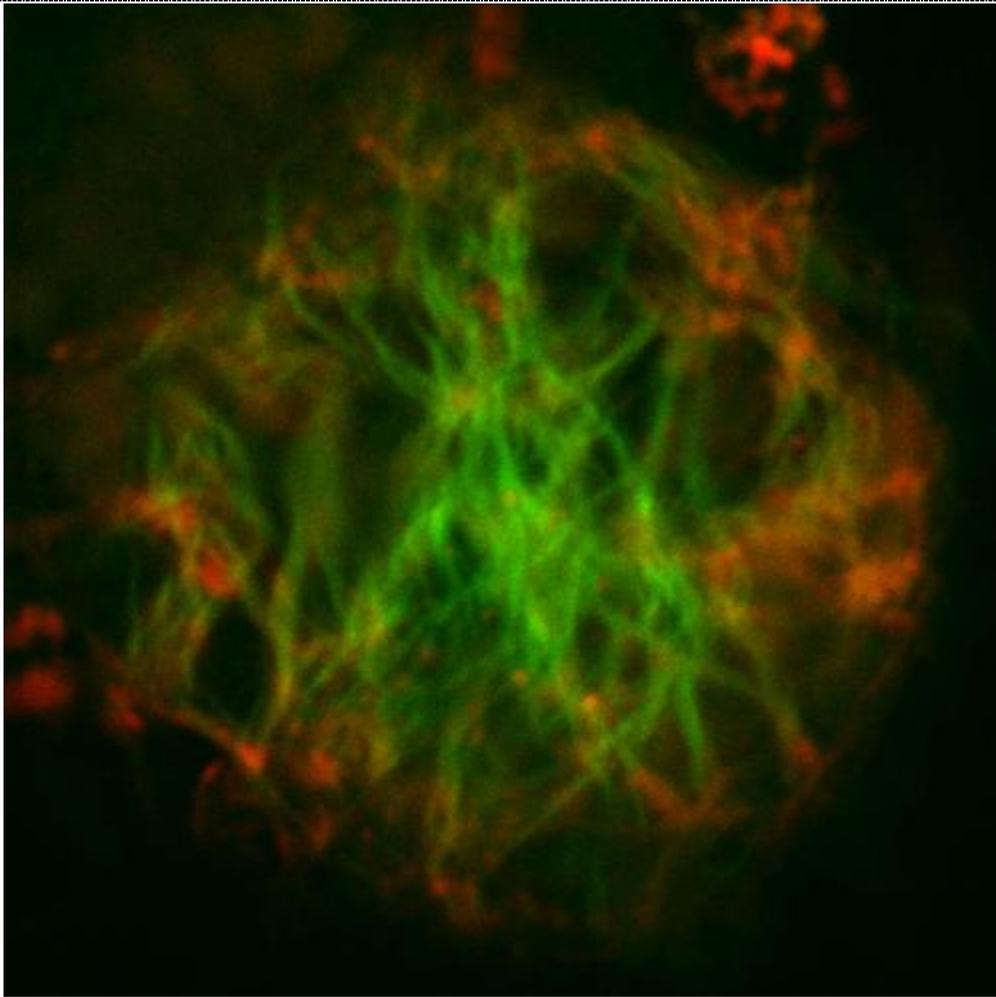


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"AD-3," © 2007 Zerd.

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This is a single Alzheimer's disease plaque - the green shows fibrils and the red shows other assembly states of a protein called beta-amyloid.

Areas of the brain usually affected include the temporal lobe – an important area of the brain where we store memories, and hence memory loss being one of the first symptoms for many.



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The picture from the Alzheimers Disease Research in the link below shows areas of this cell death (leading to atrophy or shrinkage) in the temporal lobe of the brain.

<http://www.ahaf.org/alzheimers/about/understanding/brain-with-alzheimers.html>

Alzheimer's disease is generally more common in women than men and affects approximately 26 million people worldwide. Symptoms often appear gradually, with memory loss often the cardinal symptom. Behavioural problems may occur, but tend to be more frequent as the severity of the dementia increases. Disease progression is gradual and people often live for several years.

In rare cases when there is family history of Alzheimer's disease starting in middle age, a genetic link may be identified. However it must be emphasized this is rare and accounts for less than 1 in every 1,000 diagnosed cases.

Other less common forms/types of dementia, which you may come across include Korsakoff's syndrome, Corticobasal Degeneration, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease / AIDS related and Frontotemporal Lobe Degeneration.

e-tivity 2.2 (2 hours)

Purpose

To become more familiar with the types of dementia and their characteristics and reflect on the importance of interprofessional working.

Task

Review some of the other forms of dementia and read about their key characteristics. This can be accessed from the Alzheimer's society fact sheets <http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=200362>

Consider the following questions:

What is different between the progression of Alzheimer's Disease and Vascular Dementia?

Which dementia does not usually start with memory loss?

Consider the potential benefits of interprofessional working in managing these differing symptoms and signs



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Contribute to the... (**Note to facilitator - suggest a wiki with headed columns for student to complete**) and describe how you have seen these common features in your professional practice (**50 words**).

Respond

Comment on at least two other contributions that your colleagues in different professional groups have made (**25 words each**).

e-tivity 2.3 (2 hours)

Task

Access the link below, and consider in particular the information sheet on Dementia with Lewy Bodies

<http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=200362>

Is there anything that surprises you about this particular dementia?

Contribute to the... (**Note to facilitator - suggest in the wiki developed for earlier activities in this section**) to note your thoughts (**30 words**).

Respond

Comment on at least two contributions from other team members (**20 words each**).



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