# Dementia

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#### What is it??

- Dementia is a chronic disorder of the mental processes caused by Brain disease or injury and marked by memory disorders, personality change and impaired reasoning.
- It can be genetic also

#### Science

- Having Dementia, the cortex shrivels up, which damages areas involved in thinking, planning and remembering.
- Shrinkage is especially severe in the hippocampus which is an area that focuses on forming new memories.
- Ventricles grow larger

#### **Symptoms**

- ☐ Loss of Memory
- ☐ Hard time Communicating and Language
- ☐ Lack of ability to focus and pay attention
- Reasoning and Judgement
- ☐ Visual perception

#### **Diagnosis**

- ☐ Physical examination
- ☐ Careful medication history
- Laboratory tests
- Characteristics changes in thinking, day-to-day function and behavioral associated with each type

#### Society

- ☐ People diagnosed with it are under 65 years old
- Other terms are "early onset dementia", "young onset dementia" and "working age dementia"
- ☐ In the U.S, 5 million are reported to have age related dementia
- ☐ In Louisianna, at least 100,000 people have it

### Society

- ☐ 1 in 6 women and 1 in 10 who live past 55 will develop dementia in their lifetime
- People with dementia often have to have a care provider since they can't take care of themselves

## Self

- ☐ My grandmother had it for a while
- She was declining so bad with it that my mom and I went over to see her everyday because she couldn't take care of herself anymore
- ☐ Wanted to find more about it

### Sources

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http://www.alz.org/what-is-dementia.asp

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents\_info.
php?documentID=164

http://idrp.pbrc.edu/faq.htm