The Facts About Alzheimer's Disease Psychosis (ADP)

What Is the Difference Between Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease?

Dementia is a general term for loss of memory and other cognitive abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life.[1] Alzheimer's disease is the most common type, accounting for **60-80 percent of dementia cases** or more than **six and a half million people in the U.S.**[1-3]

ADP: The Lesser-Known Side of Alzheimer's Disease

Approximately **30 percent of patients** with Alzheimer's disease experience psychosis, commonly consisting of hallucinations and delusions.[4]

A **hallucination** is defined as a perception-like experience that occurs without an external stimulus and is sensory (seen, heard, felt, tasted, smelled) in nature.[4,5]

A **delusion** is a false, fixed belief despite evidence to the contrary.[4,5]

Symptoms of psychosis are associated with a more rapid cognitive decline.[6]

Those living with Alzheimer's disease may also experience neuropsychiatric disturbances, including apathy, depression, irritability and aggression.[7]

The Impact of ADP

Currently, there are **no approved treatments for hallucinations and delusions associated with Alzheimer's disease psychosis**.[8]

In patients with Alzheimer's disease, the **presence of hallucinations and delusions** predicted greater likelihood of progression to **severe dementia**.[9] Serious consequences have been associated with psychosis in patients with dementia, such as **increased likelihood of nursing home placement, more severe dementia and increased risk of morbidity and mortality**.[9, 10]

Neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with Alzheimer's, including hallucinations and delusions, have also been associated with a **negative impact on caregiver quality of life-related measures**.[11]

Sources

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