

# What's the Difference Between DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S?

Though the two terms are often used interchangeably, dementia and Alzheimer's disease are not the same thing.

## DEMENTIA

is a clinical syndrome in which memory is negatively affected. It is caused by a variety of diseases. The cause of brain cell death and/or its location in the brain determines what disease is behind the dementia.



## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

is the most common cause of dementia. It is a progressive brain disease, causing impairment in memory and cognitive function. Neurons are first lost in the hippocampus, the brain's centre for memory and learning. There is no known cure.



## BOTH DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S LEAD TO

- ✓ A decline in the ability to think
- ✓ Memory impairment
- ✓ Communication impairment

### DEMENTIA CAN ALSO BE A TEMPORARY CONDITION OF SOME ILLNESSES

Depression, medication side effects (called polypharmacy), thyroid disorders, vitamin B12 deficiency, head trauma, tumors, vasculitis, and alcoholism can trigger "temporary dementia."

### PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE SHOW SOME OR ALL OF THESE SYMPTOMS

- difficulty remembering recent events or conversations
- apathy
- depression
- impaired judgment
- disorientation
- confusion
- behavioral changes
- difficulty speaking, swallowing, or walking in advanced stages of the disease

# 64%

of all Canadian cases of dementia are caused by Alzheimer's disease.

# 1.1 M

Canadians are either directly or indirectly affected by dementia.

# 25,000

new cases of dementia are diagnosed every year in Canada.

Sources: Alzheimer's Society Canada, Alzheimer's Society of Toronto, Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, and Healthline