

## **Causes (2 pages total)**

### **Conditions That Can Cause Dementia**

#### **Degenerative diseases:**

- Alzheimer's disease
- Parkinson's disease
- Pick's disease
- Huntington's disease
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Cerebellar degenerations
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Parkinson-ALS-dementia complex of Guam and other island areas
- Rare genetic and metabolic disease (e.g., Wilson's)

#### **Vascular dementia:**

- Multi-infarct dementia
- Cortical micro-infarcts
- Lacunar dementia
- Binswanger disease
- Cerebral embolic disease

#### **Anoxia dementia:**

- Cardiac arrest
- Cardiac failure (severe)
- Carbon dementia

#### **Traumatic dementia:**

- Dementia pugilistica (boxer's dementia)
- Head injuries

#### **Infectious dementia:**

- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
- Progressive multifocal Leukoencephalopathy
- Post-encephalitic dementia
- Behcet's syndrome
- Herpes encephalitis
- Fungal meningitis or encephalitis
- Parasitic encephalitis

- Brain abscess
- Neurosyphilis

### **Normal pressure hydrocephalus**

#### **Space-occupying lesions:**

- Chronic or acute subdural hematoma primary brain tumor
- Metastatic tumors

### **Multiple sclerosis**

#### **Auto-immune disorder:**

- Disseminated lupus erythematosus
- Vasculitis

#### **Toxic dementia:**

- Alcoholic dementia
- Metallic dementia (e.g., lead poisoning)
- Organic poisons (e.g., solvents, some insecticides)

#### **Other disorders:**

- Epilepsy
- Whipple disease
- Heat stroke

Source: [Losing a Million Minds by the Office of Technology Assessment](#), U.S. Congress, 1987, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, and "Senility Reconsidered" by the National Institute on Aging Task Force, 1980, Journal of the American Medical Association, 224, pp. 261-262. Adapted by permission (pending).

**From the website of the Alzheimer's Association of Los Angeles: Causes**  
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