

CHANGES IN MENTAL ILLNESS WITH DEMENTIA

Possible Changes when Someone with Mental Illness gets Dementia

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This is a list (not exhaustive) of changes you might see in someone with mental illness who has dementia.

1. Change (gradual) from person's own baseline
2. Change in cognition, emotion, behavior
3. More easily gets emotionally distressed
4. More frustration & irritation
5. Says more often that she/he doesn't want to do something
6. Increased confusion
7. Increased uncertainty
8. Needs more help
9. Less able to perform tasks (eg, Activities of Daily Living)
10. More impulsive
11. Word finding difficulty/ Uses fewer words
12. Forgetfulness (eg where they are or where things are or what someone said)
13. Thinks people are taking things
14. Blank stare or vacant stare
15. Misinterpreting events, what people say
16. Impaired visuospatial functions
17. At times doesn't recognize spaces, objects or people
18. Gets lost more easily
19. Reduced attention and concentration
20. Reduced interest in previously enjoyed activities
21. Increased anxiety or fear
22. Changes in sleep
23. Reduced appetite
24. Changes (eg in environment, plans, people) are more difficult & upsetting
25. Strikes out physically or verbally more often
26. Gets over-stimulated more easily
27. Less able to reason or understand/accept explanations
28. Hallucinations & delusions increase or decrease
29. Reduced facial expression
30. Slower moving
31. Less initiative
32. Confusion about time