

CHANGES IN INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS WITH DEMENTIA

Possible Changes when Someone with an Intellectual/Developmental Disorder Gets Dementia

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This is a list (not exhaustive) of changes you might see in someone with an Intellectual/Developmental Disorder (I/DD) who has dementia.

1. Change (gradual) from person's own baseline
2. Change in cognition, emotion, behavior
3. Needs more help
4. Less able to perform tasks (eg, ADLs)
5. More easily gets emotionally distressed
6. More frustration & irritation
7. Says more often that she/he doesn't want to do something
8. Increased confusion
9. Increased uncertainty
10. Changes (eg, in environment, plans, people) are more difficult & upsetting
11. More impulsive
12. Word finding difficulty/ Uses fewer words
13. Forgetfulness
14. Thinks people are taking things
15. At times doesn't recognize spaces, objects or people
16. Blank stare or vacant stare
17. Misinterpreting events, what people say
18. Impaired visuospatial functions
19. Gets lost more easily
20. Reduced attention and concentration
21. Reduced activity level; Less interest in hobbies
22. Gets over-stimulated more easily
23. Strikes out physically or verbally more often
24. Increased anxiety or fear
25. Changes in sleep
26. Reduced appetite
27. Increased rigidity
28. Increase in repeated movements
29. Increase in seizures
30. Eventual reduced ability to walk
31. Incontinence bowel and bladder