

Alzheimer's disease and related disorders

Patient risks

ALZHEIMER BELGIQUE



- Alzheimer Belgique is a patient association founded in 1985 by families affected by the disease
- Some of our missions:
 - Inform the people concerned by Alzheimer's disease or related disorders, particularly on home support solutions
 - Support those concerned with some organized activities and respite time
 - Raise awareness and change the look people might have of the disease

This is not a medical presentation, we are dedicated in explaining the everyday life and the difficulties of the person with Alzheimer's disease or related disorder

THE MAIN DISORDERS OF THE DISEASE



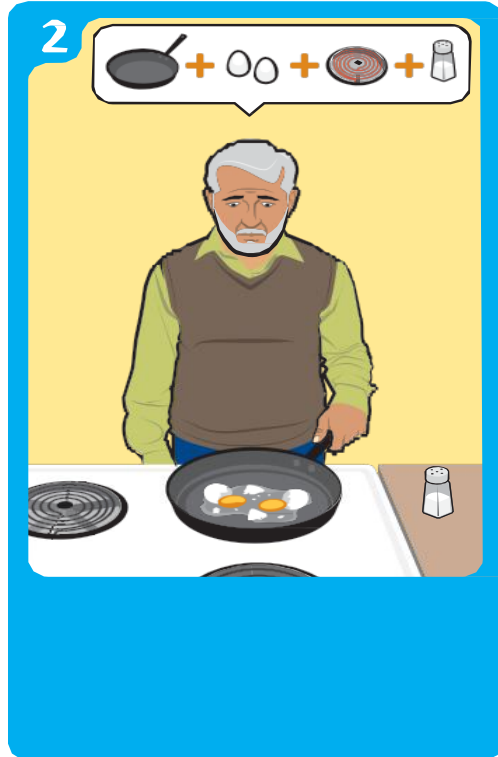
- Face recognition disorder (*Prosopagnosia*)
- Inability to execute coordinated movements (*Apraxia*)
- Language disorder, difficulty expressing thoughts orally (*Aphasia*)
- The reasoning is troubled (*Thought disorder*)
- Disturbance in the recognition and interpretation of familiar objects (*Agnosia*)
- Restlessness, wandering withdrawing into oneself with consequences on the person's mood (anxiety, depression) (*Behaviour disorder*)
- Memory problems (*Amnesia*)
- The person forgets what he/she forgets (*Anosognosia*)
- Disturbance of spatial and/or temporal orientation

LOSS OF MEMORY DISTURBING THE EVERYDAY LIFE



- Forgetting recent information
- Difficulty learning new information

DIFFICULTY PERFORMING DAILY TASKS



- Difficulty to perform familiar tasks, habits at home or in hobbies like ironing, cooking, cleaning...
- Difficulty making transfers of money, use a credit card and remembering his credit card code

DIFFICULTY USING AN OBJECT ACCORDING ITS FUNCTION



<https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apraxie>

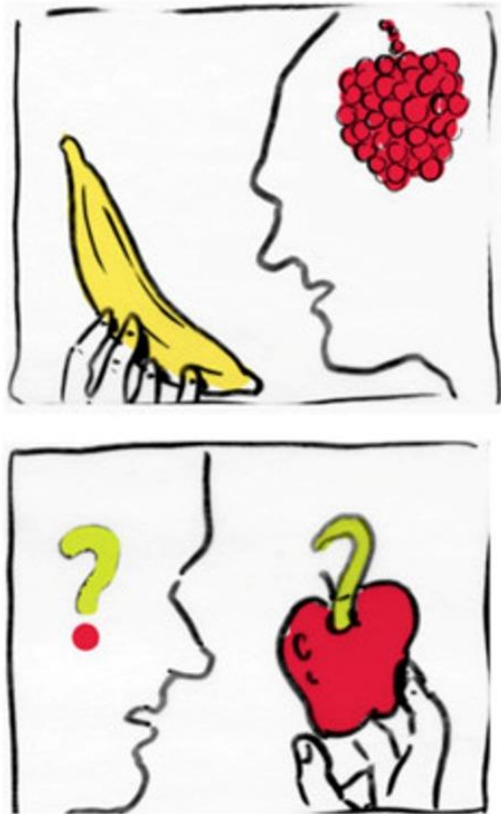


<http://www.sendflowers4.info/apraxie-6338528/>

➤ Examples:

- a comb to brush your hair
- a knife
- get dressed properly
- ...

DIFFICULTY RECOGNIZING PEOPLE AND OBJECTS



<http://ginkgobilobahelp.info/?q=Apraxie++Wikip%C3%A9dia>



<https://hiveminer.com/Tags/prosopagnosi/Recent>

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS



➤ Examples:

- Forgetfulness of certain words
- Use of another word
- Difficulty finding his words
- Difficulty following a conversation

DISORIENTATION IN TIME AND SPACE



- Loss of the notion of time:
 - Forget the day of the week, the year or the month
 - Having difficulties to know what time of the day it is
- ➔ *Difficulties in taking their medication*
- Difficulty to orient oneself in space, to find one's way in a familiar place

WEAKENED JUDGMENT



- Not recognize a dangerous situation (by car, pedestrian crossing...)
- Difficulty in discerning the truth from the false, the convenient of the inconvenient → Disinhibition
- Not recognize a health problem that requires immediate attention or wear light clothing in cold weather

DIFFICULTY WITH ABSTRACT NOTIONS



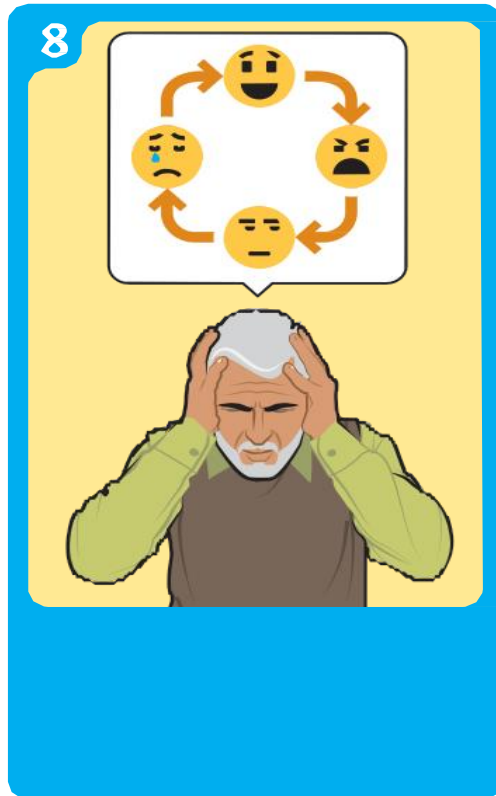
- Having difficulty managing a budget or not understanding what the numbers represent and what they are used for
- Making money for change
- Recognition of the value of money

LOST OBJECTS OR STOLEN OBJECTS?



- Store items in inappropriate places such as a dress in the refrigerator or a watch in the sugar bowl
- The person can think, by not finding their stuff, that someone stole them (need to torment a culprit)

MOOD OR BEHAVIOR CHANGES



- Change mood very quickly like going from calm to anger for no apparent reason



CHANGES OF PERSONALITY



- Present changes of personality like being suspicious or fearful
- The person can become anxious, more friendly, more withdrawn...



LOSS OF INTEREST – LOSS OF INITIATIVE



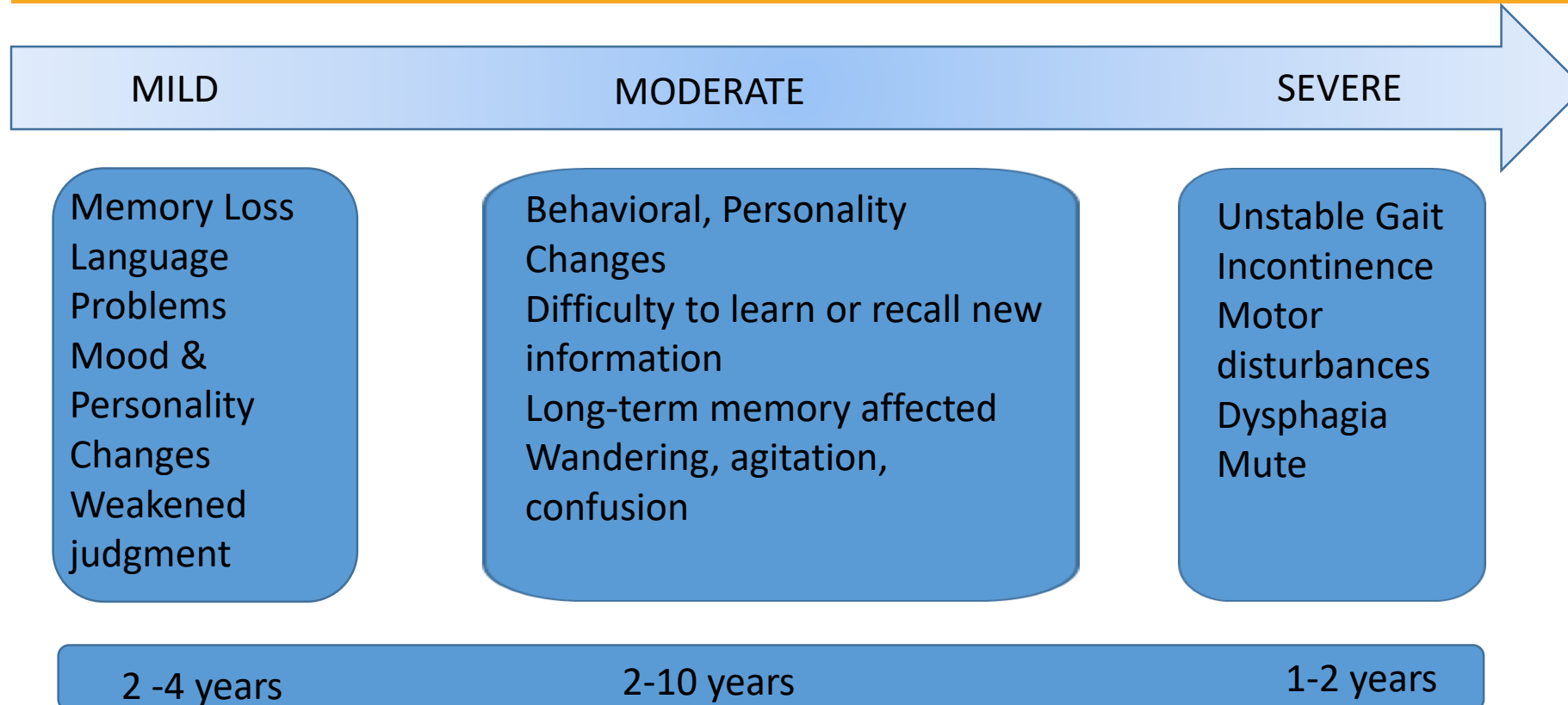
- Losing interest in friends, family, work and his/her favourite activities
- Difficulty starting an activity without external stimulation

IMPACTS IN EVERYDAY LIFE



- The slightest change causes anger or an anxiety attack
- The patient always repeats the same questions when they have already been given the answer
- The patient does not want to meet his friends anymore and does not want to do anything without their caregiver
- The patient no longer understands social conventions and can sometimes be rude

The stage of Alzheimer's Disease



The disease progresses differently according to each person.
Patient can be help to maintain their autonomy at every stage.

FOCUS OF ATTENTION*



- The taking of medication and at the right time
- The preparation and the taking of meals
- Avoid the risks of falls
- Establish a home routine in everyday activities
- Having a good communication and collaboration between home helpers themselves and with the family

➔ Those focus of attention allows a good quality of life and a stay-at-home support

** It is a non-exhaustive list*



Alzheimer

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