

## Alzheimer's Disease: STAGE 1 – EARLY

SYMPTOMS	EXAMPLES
Recent memory loss affects performance	Forgets grocery list May get lost
Vague complaints	Headache when forgets “Something is wrong” “I’m going crazy”
Less tolerant/angry	Upset with family visits Cannot tolerate children
Less energy	Frequent naps Sighs often
No initiative – cannot self start	Seems disinterested No longer does routine tasks – cooking
Slow to learn/react	May not respond to question or request
Forgets what is just told	Asks, “What was I doing again?”
Loss of spontaneity or zest	Seems apathetic or down in the dumps Seems less outgoing
Mood/personality change	Does not seem like himself
Takes longer with tasks	Especially ADLs Difficulty following recipes
Poor judgment	Makes poor decision driving Leaves the stove on
Difficulty with money and calculation	Does not pay bills Pays bills twice
May become suspicious or paranoid	Accuses people of taking things Calls the police
Difficulty thinking abstract thoughts	Cannot interpret proverbs Difficulty balancing the checkbook

### Alzheimer's Association Services:

- 24-hour Helpline
- Community referral lists
- [Support groups](#)
- Family education: Getting Started program
- Care consultation

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## Alzheimer's Disease: STAGE 2 – MIDDLE

SYMPTOMS	EXAMPLES
Needs assistance in many areas	Needs help bathing Needs help with eating
Difficulty understanding, planning, concentrating, deciding	Becomes lost in conversation Cannot follow through on tasks Becomes frustrated with choices
Slow to react or overreacts	May look faraway when spoken to Becomes angry with simple request
Unable to cope with failure	Feels hopeless when makes mistakes
Self-absorbed	Lacks empathy
Increased memory loss and confusion	May not recognize family members
Communication greatly impaired Difficulty organizing thoughts	Talks nonsense Uses made up words
Has trouble expressing needs	May not be able to state when in pain
May begin to wander	Looks for something familiar
Disoriented to time/place/self	May not be aware of where is living May think it is a different year May think is much younger than actual age
Inappropriate behavior	Wears 3 shirts at once
Unable to recognize familiar	May wish to go home when already at home
Repetitive statements or movements	Repeats questions consistently
Perception/motor difficulties	Difficulty sitting on a chair Steps over change in flooring pattern
Less impulse control	Swears Hits others
Delusions and hallucinations	Believes is still employed Sees things that are not there

### Alzheimer's Association Services:

- Family education classes
- Care consultation
- [Legal & Financial seminars](#)
- Respite program

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## Alzheimer's Disease: STAGE 3 – LATE

SYMPTOMS	EXAMPLES
Dependence increases	Needs help dressing, bathing, etc
May have difficulty eating	May need to be fed Difficulty swallowing
May become incontinent of bowel and bladder	Wears Depends
May be unable to walk or perform other motor abilities	Cannot bear weight May lose ability to walk completely
Little or no communication	Does not initiate or respond to communication
Changes in ability to respond	May not respond to the spoken word but responds to touch
Susceptible to infection	UTI common
Weight loss/poor nutrition/metabolic changes	May lose weight despite continuing to eat well.

Alzheimer's Association Services:

- [Late stage support groups](#)
- Hospice referrals

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