

NC Department of Health and Human Services  
**NC Home Care Aide Curriculum**

**Module 17 – Alzheimer’s Disease  
 and Other Types of Dementias**

July 2021

*CREATED IN CONSULTATION WITH HEATHER MCKAY, MS, OR/L  
 DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALIST*

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**OBJECTIVES (1)**

1. Discriminate among the terms, dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, forgetfulness, delirium, and depression.
2. Describe symptoms that commonly occur with Alzheimer’s disease/dementia based on brain damage.
3. Recognize behaviors that are indicative of dementia.
4. Differentiate among 5 levels of ability and loss in people with dementia based on observable behaviors, language, and actions.

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**OBJECTIVES (2)**

5. Demonstrate key components of a positive physical approach when working with a patient with dementia.
6. Demonstrate a combination of cues, visual, verbal, and tactile, to assist a patient with dementia.

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**WHAT IS DEMENTIA?**



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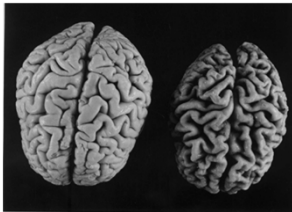
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**Handout #1**

**Brain Images**



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**A Category of Diseases**

- Dementia is a category of diseases
- There are many types of dementia underneath the same umbrella
- Alzheimer's disease is one type under the umbrella, but there are more than 70 types of dementia
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia

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### LEWY BODY DEMENTIA



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### ACTIVITY #1

### 24-HOUR CARE DISCUSSION



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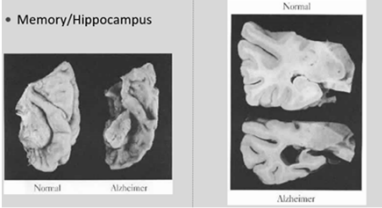
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### Memory/Hippocampus

• Memory/Hippocampus



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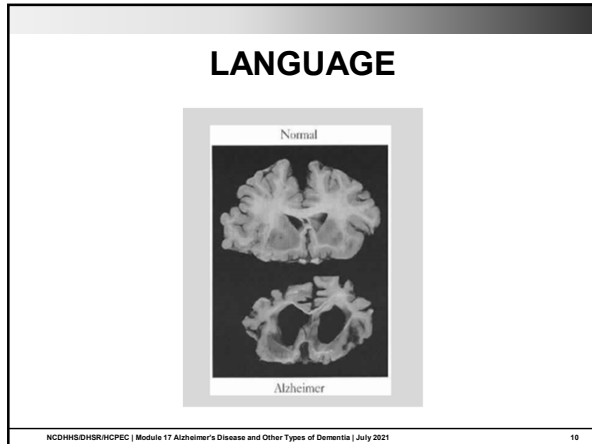
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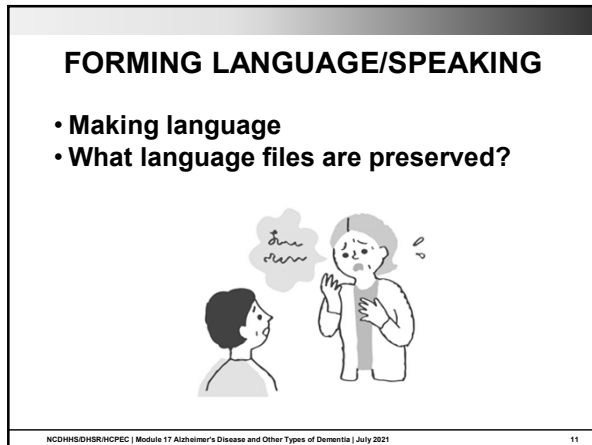
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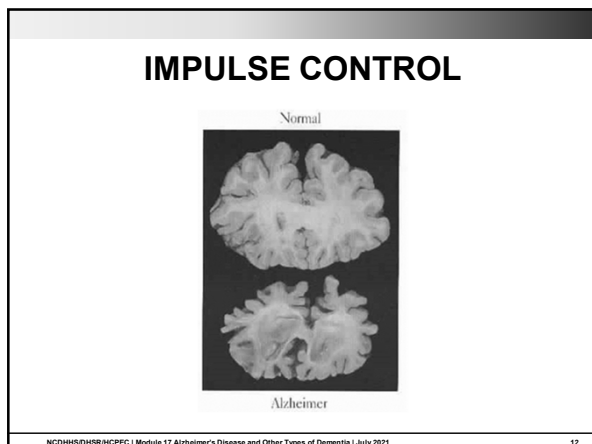
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### Sensory Processing/Motor Control

- Sensory input comes through all the senses of the body

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### Techniques for Approaching a Patient

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### ACTIVITY #2

#### Physical Approach Skills

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### Patient Changes Over Time

**A patient with Alzheimer's disease will follow the steps in order**



**A patient with Vascular Dementia will present a combination of skills at different levels**



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### Dementia is Progressive

- Every type of dementia will progress.
- There is no cure, so change is guaranteed.
- As the disease progresses, the patient's abilities, interests, and skills will change as damage to the brain spreads.
- By recognizing these changes and offering matching support, the patient will maintain function as long as possible.

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### Describing the Progression of Dementia (1)

- Early, Middle, Late System
- Global Deterioration Scale



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**Describing the Progression of Dementia (2)**

- **Cognitive Disabilities Scale**
  - It recognizes 5 levels of progression of the disease
  - Function levels range from slightly impaired (level 5) to end-of-life (level 1)



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**Cognitive Disabilities Scale – Level 5**



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**Cognitive Disabilities Scale – Level 4**



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### Cognitive Disabilities Scale – Level 3

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### Cognitive Disabilities Scale – Level 2

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### Cognitive Disabilities Scale – Level 1

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- This module is designed to help you understand why the patient with dementia behaves the way he/she does, how you can help, and how the disease effects the patient and his/her caregivers.
- Remember, the patient is doing the best they can with a brain that is changing. As a home care aide, you can provide the best care for the patient throughout the disease with new knowledge and techniques that work!

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