

# What are the Stages of Dementia?

## First Stage

- Gradual onset
- Forgetfulness
- Word-finding difficulties
- Problems with memory and concentration
- Misplacing things
- Trouble organizing and planning
- Difficulty remembering to take medications

## Middle Stage

- More obvious problems with memory
- Gets lost in familiar places
- May have difficulty recognizing family members
- Needing extra help with eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, etc.
- Increased difficulties with communication
- Potential behavior and personality changes

## Last Stage

- More dependent on care for daily activities (see middle stage)
- Difficulty walking
- May no longer be able to verbally communicate
- Memory gets worse
- Personality may change
- Swallowing and eating problems
- May lose ability to control going to the bathroom
- May have recurrent infections

