

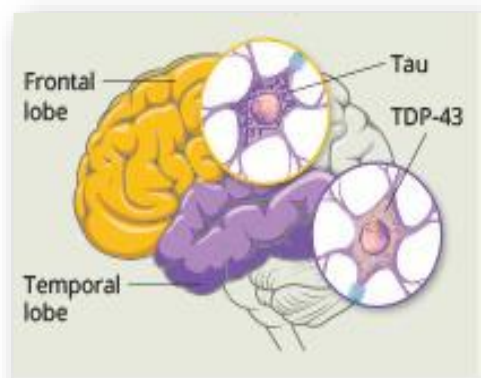
# Young Onset Dementia

Frontotemporal Dementia leading cause

Symptoms very different than Alzheimer's

## How is it different from Alzheimer's disease?

- Unique pathology
- Younger onset
- In the early stage there may be **one primary symptom**
- Less common, and even more poorly understood
- Harder to diagnose



Source: National Institute on Aging

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## FTD Disorders



ALS-Frontotemporal Spectrum Disorder (ALS-FTSD)



Behavioral Variant (bvFTD)



Corticobasal Syndrome (CBS)



Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP)



Primary Progressive Aphasia (nfvPPA, svPPA, lvPPA)

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## The genetics of FTD

- 40% (or more) cases of FTD are familial
- Subset are genetic and autosomal dominant
- **Genetic testing:** as a diagnostic resource
- Resources for genetic testing



Common genetic variants associated with hereditary FTD:

- C9orf72
- Progranulin (GRN)
- Microtubule-associated protein tau (MAPT)

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## Key features

- Relative youth. health, physical strength
- Presentation of symptoms
  - **Movement**
  - Language
  - Behavior
- Difficulty initiating, controlling, and coordinating movement
- Stiffness or rigidity
- Swallowing problems
- “Alien limb phenomenon”
- Paralysis

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## Key features

- Relative youth. health, physical strength
- Presentation of symptoms
  - Movement
  - **Language**
  - Behavior
- Slowed or slurred speech, incorrect speech sounds
- Impaired comprehension
- Difficulty with reading and writing
- Impaired word recall, retrieval, or usage
- Mutism

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## Key features

- Relative youth. health, physical strength
- Presentation of symptoms
  - Movement
  - Language
  - **Behavior**
- Disinhibition
- Apathy
- Emotional blunting, lack of empathy
- Gregariousness
- Compulsive, ritualistic behaviors
- Changes in eating habits
- Executive function: planning, decision-making, problem-solving
- Mental rigidity and inflexibility
- Aggression
- Impulsivity or criminal behavior
- Challenges with IADLs
- Lack of insight

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## Impact on families and care partners

Youth,  
health,  
physical  
strength

Functional  
changes:  
ADLs, IADLs,  
employment

Movement,  
language,  
behavioral  
symptoms

- Confusion
- Trauma
- Isolation
- Marital problems
- Financial problems
- Mental health issues
- Guilt

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## The challenges of detection

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- Symptoms commonly appear years before diagnosis
- Symptoms perceived as marital problems, mid-life crisis, or other “personal issues”
- Age bias and stigma

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## Misdiagnosis is common

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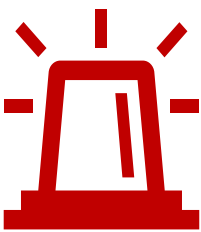


- Alzheimer's disease
- Depression
- Parkinson's disease
- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar disorder
- Marital problems

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## The consequences of misdiagnosis

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- Health care providers and law enforcement frequently untrained and inexperienced with FTD
- Impulsivity, addiction, criminal behavior: gambling, prostitution, substance abuse, violence
- Disinhibited behavior causes fear, discomfort, confusion for families and caregivers

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