



About Alzheimer's disease from the Alzheimer Society of Canada

Dementia is an umbrella term for a group of brain disorders, of which Alzheimer's disease is the most common form. Symptoms include loss of memory, impaired judgment and reasoning and changes in behaviour. Today, 747,000 Canadians are living with dementia. Dementia is not a normal part of aging but age remains the biggest risk factor. While the risk doubles every five years after age 65, dementia can also occur in people as young as 40. Most people with dementia will wander at some point during the progression of the disease:

- **Memory loss** — forgetting their address, their way home or not being able to recognize familiar places
- **Disorientation about time or place** — not knowing where they are or how much time has passed, and not even realizing that they are missing or lost
- **Communication difficulties** — having trouble interpreting signs or understanding directions
- **Visual and perceptual problems** — often losing their peripheral vision and depth perception, causing them to interpret a room, a ditch or even shrubbery as a closed space, feeling trapped as a result
- **Wandering** — Feeling restless because of an unmet need like going to the bathroom or getting away from an uncomfortable environment

To learn more about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias or to find an Alzheimer Society near you, visit www.alzheimer.ca.