

Dementia

Worldwide, more than 55 million people live with dementia, and there are nearly 10 million new cases every year. The total number is expected to rise to 78 million in 2030 and 139 million in 2050.

Types of dementia

- Alzheimer's disease, which accounts for 60-70% of all cases
- Vascular dementia
- Lewy body dementia
- Frontotemporal lobe dementia
- Mixed dementia

Other diseases linked to dementia

- Huntington's disease
- Traumatic brain injury
- Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease
- Parkinson's disease

Risk factors

- Increasing age
- Hypertension
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Physical inactivity
- Poor nutrition
- Excessive alcohol use
- Smoking
- Depression
- Social isolation
- Family history
- Air pollution

While some treatments may lessen the symptoms of dementia and slow its progression, there are no treatments that can cure it.

The areas dementia affects

- Memory
- Thinking
- Orientation
- Comprehension
- Mood
- Emotional control

Impact of dementia

- Dementia is currently the seventh leading cause of death.
- It is a major cause of disability and dependency among older people.
- In addition to the patient, it affects carers, families and society.
- The estimated total global societal cost of dementia in 2019 was US\$1.3 trillion, and 50% of this global cost can be attributed to informal care.

Effect on women

- More women than men have dementia.
- 65% of total deaths due to dementia are in women.
- Disability-adjusted life years due to dementia are 60% higher in women than in men.
- Women provide 70% of informal care hours.

Further information

WHO. Dementia <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/dementia>