

“What are the symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease”?

Early Stage Mildly impaired	Middle stages Moderately Impaired	Late Stage Severely Impaired
Average length of time: 1-3 years (may be longer)	Average length of time: 3-7 years (may be longer)	Average length of time: 2 - 3 years (depends on care given)
Memory Loss; Increasing difficulty with following directions, understanding large amounts of information and making quick decisions.	Difficulty writing and speaking; can’t find the right words or follow conversations. Loss of attention span, an increase in memory loss and confusion.	Unable to communicate with words; speech difficulties; eventually, the person loses the ability to speak entirely.
Uncertainty and hesitancy in performing duties or activities.	Disorientated to time; may confuse night and day; disorientated to place, where they are.	Forgets names of close family; may recognize loved ones but can’t use name appropriately.
Difficulty with handling money (paying bills, balancing the checkbook, etc.)	Asks questions repeatedly.	Needs assistance with all personal care (ADL’s) Total care and supervision.
Experiencing difficulty when driving a car. (May break too quickly or too slowly)	Difficulty choosing appropriate clothes; Personal hygiene (bathing, shaving) is inconsistent, uncooperative.	Difficulty with swallowing Infections are more common.
Difficulty learning new activities, but established hobbies may still be enjoyed.	May be suspicious, agitated; delusions and paranoid behavior occur; misplaces items and blames others; may become aggressive.	Information is given in short, simple terms and sentences.
Mood/personality changes; socializing with familiar surroundings is more comfortable.	Wandering, pacing, rummaging through personal items	Mobility unsteady, falls occur, or the person is immobile; joints and muscles are rigid.
Difficulty with remembering recent experiences or events; writing things down helps maintain independence.	Infections are common.	Incontinence (first of urine, then of bowel.) Seizures may occur.