

CLINICAL PRESENTATION AD

The deficits in AZ may be the defects in form of:

- Language
- Memory
- Perception
- Emotional behavior or personality
- Cognitive skills (such as calculation, abstract thinking, or judgment)

Pre-dementia

Dementia usually first appears as forgetfulness.

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is the stage between normal forgetfulness due to aging, and the development of AD. which shows up as difficulty in remembering recently learned facts and inability to acquire new information. A patient may reveal mild cognitive difficulties up to eight years before he/she fulfills the clinical criteria for diagnosis of AD.

Subtle problems with the executive function of attentiveness, planning, flexibility, and abstract thinking or impairments in semantic memory (memory of meanings, and concept relationships) can also be symptomatic of the early stages of AD. Apathy can be observed at this stage, and remains the most persistent neuropsychiatric symptom throughout the course of the disease. The preclinical stage of the disease has also been termed Mild cognitive impairment but whether this term corresponds to a different diagnostic stage or identifies the first step of AD is a matter of dispute.

Symptoms of MCI include:

- Forgetting recent events or conversations
- Difficulty performing more than one task at a time
- Difficulty solving problems
- Taking longer to perform more difficult activities

The early symptoms of AD can include:

- Language problems, such as trouble finding the name of familiar objects
- Misplacing items
- Getting lost on familiar routes

- Personality changes and loss of social skills
- Losing interest in things previously enjoyed, flat mood
- Difficulty performing tasks that take some thought, but used to come easily, such as balancing a checkbook, playing complex games (such as bridge), and learning new information or routines

As the AD becomes worse, symptoms are more obvious and interfere with your ability to take care of yourself. Symptoms can include:

- Forgetting details about current events
- Forgetting events in your own life history, losing awareness of who you are
- Change in sleep patterns, often waking up at night
- Difficulty reading or writing
- Poor judgment and loss of ability to recognize danger
- Using the wrong word, mispronouncing words, speaking in confusing sentences
- Withdrawing from social contact
- Having hallucinations, arguments, striking out, and violent behavior
- Having delusions, depression, agitation
- Difficulty doing basic tasks, such as preparing meals, choosing proper clothing, and driving

People with severe AD can no longer:

- Understand language
- Recognize family members
- Perform basic activities of daily living, such as eating, dressing, and bathing

Other symptoms that may occur with AD:

- Incontinence
- Swallowing problems