

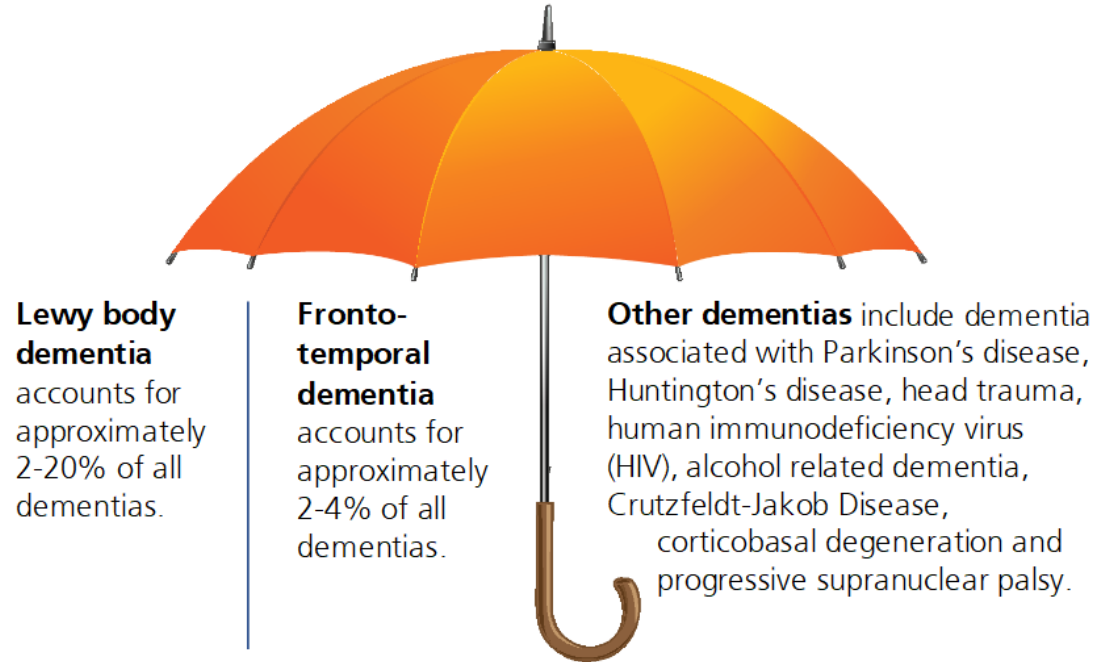
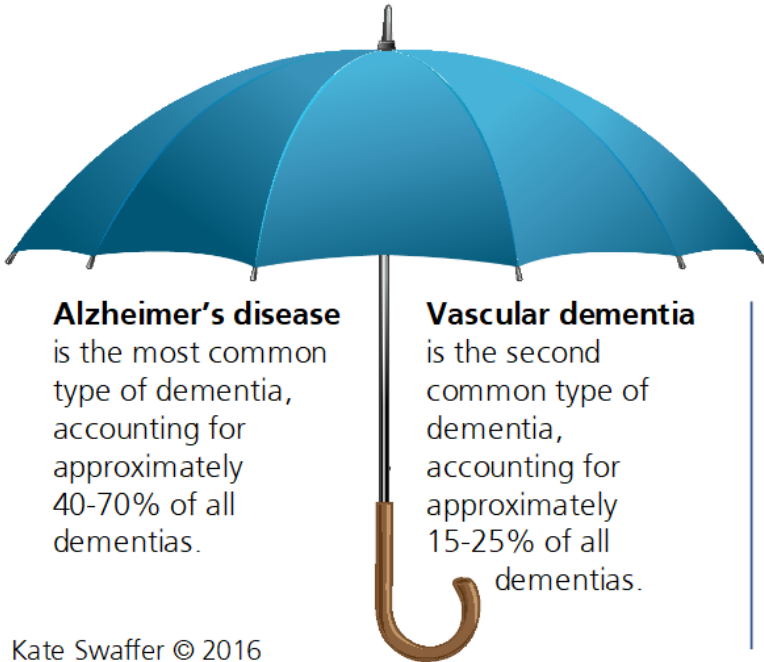
Demystifying Dementia



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Defining Dementia

Dementia is an umbrella term that describes a collection of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. It is not one specific disease. Dementia affects thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform every day tasks, and brain function is affected enough to interfere with the person's normal social or working life. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease.



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Domains of Dementia Framework

1. Cognitive decline
2. Functional decline
3. Psychiatric symptoms
4. Behaviour changes
5. Physical decline

Stages of dementia

Stage 1: Still at home

- Short-term memory loss with repetitive questions
- Loss of interest in hobbies and previously enjoyable activities
- Impaired instrumental functions

Stage 2: Escalating care needs, transitioning to 24 hour care

- Progression of cognitive deficits
- Declining function
- Behaviour changes

Stage 3: Diminishing quality of life

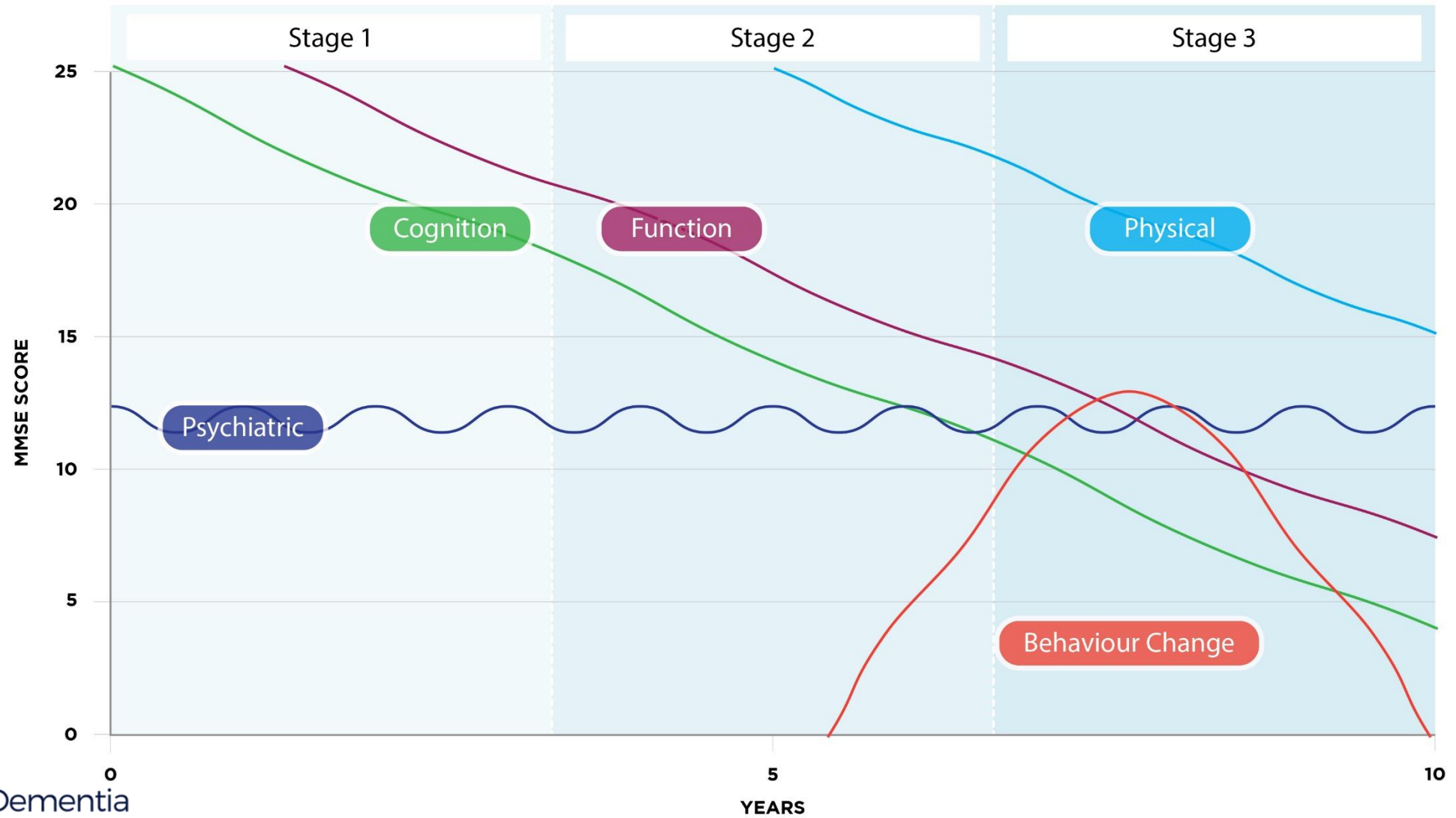
- Increasing loss of independence: dressing, feeding, bathing
- Responsive behaviours
- Physical decline



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The Stages and Domains frameworks were developed by Dr Jane Tolman, Geriatrician and are used with permission

Stages and Domains of Alzheimer's Dementia



Framework for diagnosis of Alzheimer's and Vascular dementia

Four Inclusion Criteria:

1. Gradual onset of poor memory
2. Worsening of memory problem
3. Failure of function
4. Cortical dysfunction – dysphasia, agnosia, dyspraxia

(for vascular dementia, add neuro sign or CT evidence of vascular incidents)



Framework for diagnosis of Alzheimer's and Vascular dementia

Three Exclusion Criteria:

1. Delirium
2. Other organic cause
3. Psychiatric illness