

# Findings Related to Agitation in Alzheimer's Dementia


Agitation is a common neuropsychiatric symptom reported in approximately 45 percent of patients with Alzheimer's dementia.<sup>1</sup>

## ALZHEIMER'S DEMENTIA & AGITATION 101

- Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder and is the most common cause of dementia in older adults.<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly 1 in 2 people living with Alzheimer's dementia will develop agitation.<sup>3</sup>



- Agitation in Alzheimer's dementia is classified as an excessive and/or inappropriate manifestation of human emotions and behaviors.<sup>5</sup>



**Behaviors Include**  
Wandering Shouting  
Gesturing Shoving  
Profanity Hitting  
Repetitive Questions

- Agitation can significantly impact the quality of life of patients, family members, and caregivers.

## SPOTTING THE SYMPTOMS

**Caregiver symptom spotting is key, as symptoms can appear in the early stages of Alzheimer's dementia.<sup>6</sup>**

- Many don't recognize agitation in Alzheimer's dementia as a related condition that can be treated separately from Alzheimer's disease.<sup>7</sup>
- Caregivers may wait until they can no longer handle the disruptive behaviors on their own to report to a medical professional.

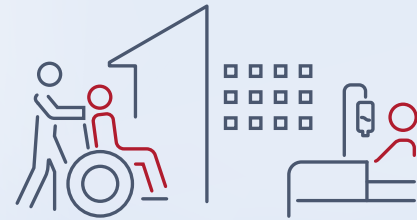


**Verbal and physical aggression are the primary triggers for caregivers seeking treatment.<sup>8</sup>**

- Medical professionals may not proactively ask about symptoms due to barriers such as lack of time and resources.

## PATIENT & CAREGIVER IMPACT

- Agitation in Alzheimer's dementia is associated with impaired daily functioning, long-term hospitalization, and an increased mortality rate.<sup>9</sup>
- Twice as many caregivers of those with dementia report emotional, financial, and physical difficulties compared to caregivers of people without dementia.<sup>10</sup>



**Agitation in Alzheimer's dementia leads to higher admission rates to assisted living and nursing home facilities.<sup>11</sup>**

**References:** 1. Halpern R, Seare J, Tong J, Hartry A, Olaoye A, Aigbogun MS. Using electronic health records to estimate the prevalence of agitation in Alzheimer disease/dementia. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2. Alzheimer's Association. 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Special Report: More Than Normal Aging: Understanding Mild Cognitive Impairment. 3. Halpern R, Seare J, Tong J, Hartry A, Olaoye A, Aigbogun MS. Using electronic health records to estimate the prevalence of agitation in Alzheimer disease/dementia. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 4. Alzheimer's Association. 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Special Report: The Patient Journey in an Era of New Treatments. 5. Cohen-Mansfield J, Werner P, Marx MS. An observational study of agitation in agitated nursing home residents. *Int Psychogeriatr*. 6. Halpern R, Seare J, Tong J, Hartry A, Olaoye A, Aigbogun MS. Using electronic health records to estimate the prevalence of agitation in Alzheimer disease/dementia. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 7. Senanarong V, Cummings JL, Fairbanks L, Mega M, Masterman DM, O'Connor SM, Strickland TL. Agitation in Alzheimer's disease is a manifestation of frontal lobe dysfunction. *Dement Geriatr Cogn Disord*. 8. Cohen-Mansfield J. Agitated behavior in persons with dementia: the relationship between type of behavior, its frequency, and its disruptiveness. *J Psychiatr Res*. 9. Aigbogun, M.S., Stellhorn, R., Hartry, A. et al. Treatment patterns and burden of behavioral disturbances in patients with dementia in the United States: a claims database analysis. *BMC Neurology*. 10. Jones E, Aigbogun MS, Pike J, Berry M, Houle CR, Husbands J. Agitation in Dementia: Real-World Impact and Burden on Patients and the Healthcare System. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 11. Conti, Linda, RN, CHPN. Managing Difficult Behaviors in Dementia. *Today's Geriatric Medicine*. Vol 9 No. 2. 12. Alzheimer's Association. Anxiety and Agitation.