

Pick's Disease

Pick's disease, also known as frontotemporal dementia (FTD), is progressive, irreversible dementia like Alzheimer's but much less common. Named after [Arnold Pick](#), the psychiatrist who first identified it, Pick's disease affects the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain.

These parts of the brain control personality, judgment, behavior, language, and emotions. Pick's disease occurs in people as young as 20 but most commonly presents between the ages of 40 and 60.

The underlying cause is unknown, but there is evidence of a genetic component, as it sometimes runs through families. The early onset of personality changes is the primary symptom that helps differentiate Pick's disease from Alzheimer's.

People suffering from Pick's might be mistaken for having Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia and sometimes reside in memory care communities. People with early-stage Pick's disease might have a lot of energy and be physically fit, so exercise can be a particularly helpful outlet.

Symptoms of Pick's disease include:

- Abrupt mood changes
- Inappropriate behavior
- Symptoms of depression
- Withdrawing from social interactions and poor social skills
- Failure to demonstrate concern, empathy, or sympathy
- Difficulty keeping a job
- Poor personal hygiene
- Repetitive behavior
- Echolalia—repeating everything said to them
- Decreased ability to read or write
- Shrinking vocabulary
- Difficulty speaking or inability to speak
- Accelerated memory loss
- Physical weakness

While there is no cure for Pick's disease, certain medications and care interventions can aid in symptom management. Resources such as [The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration](#) are available to provide helpful information and support.

