



DOWN SYNDROME AND PROBABLE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

In people with Down syndrome, changes in overall function, personality, and behavior may be more common early signs of Alzheimer's than memory loss and forgetfulness.

- Reduced interest in being sociable, conversing, or expressing thoughts
- Decreased enthusiasm for usual activities
- Decline in ability to pay attention
- Sadness, fearfulness, or anxiety
- Irritability, uncooperativeness or aggression
- Restlessness or sleep disturbances
- Seizures that begin in adulthood
- Changes in coordination and walking
- Increased noisiness or excitability
- Researchers don't yet know why early Alzheimer's symptom patterns may tend to differ among those with and without Down syndrome

Premature Aging in Down Syndrome

- Life expectancy has continued to increase for people with Down syndrome (DS).
- Aging increases risk for physical and cognitive changes for people with DS.
- Many individuals with DS age prematurely (aging more significantly in their 50's).
- Adults with DS are at risk for diseases and changes about 20 years earlier than the general population.

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