



## Frontotemporal Dementia

### What is Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)?

Frontotemporal Dementia is a group of disorders affecting brain regions that are associated with personality, behavior and language. The disorders occur when abnormal proteins build up in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain causing them to deteriorate and shrink.

The most common types of FTD are Frontal Variant and Primary Progressive Aphasia.

The Frontal Variant type affects behavior and personality.

Primary Progressive Aphasia involves difficulty with communicating and has two sub types:

- Progressive non-fluent aphasia which affects the ability to speak
- Semantic dementia which affects the ability to understand and use language

### What are the signs and symptoms of FTD?

FTD tends to occur at a younger age than Alzheimer's disease, often between ages 40-65. The signs and symptoms of FTD vary depending on what part of the brain is affected.

The most common signs of FTD are dramatic changes in personality and behavior including lack of judgement, apathy, increasingly inappropriate social behavior, loss of empathy, loss of inhibition, decline in personal hygiene, changes in eating habits and repetitive compulsive behavior.

Some types of FTD cause problems with language or impaired speech, including increasing difficulty understanding spoken and written language, having hesitant speech, and problems forming sentences.

Additionally, people with FTD often report a general weakening of their muscles or slowing of their movements.

### What are the risk factors of FTD?

In some cases, the disease is genetic, and passed down through families, but in most cases no specific cause can be found.