

Alzheimer Society

PREPARING FOR YOUR DOCTOR'S VISIT

Fill out the information below to the best of your ability. Share it with your doctor. Be open and honest in answering any questions your doctor may ask you about the changes you've been experiencing or that you are noticing in someone else.

Do you or someone you care about have problems with any of the following?

1. Attention

- Being easily distracted
- Losing a train of thought in conversation

2. Memory

- Asking the same questions or repeating the same information over again
- Misplacing things
- Leaving the stove on, tap running or forgetting to lock the house
- Forgetting appointments or the correct month of the year

3. Language

- Finding words like people's names or common words
- Substituting incorrect words
- Following a conversation with multiple participants
- Understanding simple or complex verbal and written instructions

4. Vision and space

- Getting lost in unfamiliar or familiar places
- Recognizing faces
- Finding your way when driving

5. Judgment

- Planning and organizing your daily activities
- Knowing what to do if there were a fire or someone suddenly got ill
- Driving, managing finances or operating appliances

6. Coordination

- Putting movements in sequence (e.g. taking the necessary steps to make a cup of coffee, prepare a bath)
- Using utensils to eat or groom yourself

7. Mood

- Being down most of the time
- Losing interest in doing things

8. Personality and behaviour:

- Seeing or hearing things that other people do not
- Being suspicious of others, like believing people are out to hurt you
- Being verbally or physically agitated or aggressive
- Having changes in your personality
- Being socially inappropriate, acting out of character
- Having unusual food cravings (e.g. for carbohydrates or bananas)

9. Daily function:

- Completing familiar tasks (e.g. dressing, bathing)
- Planning and organizing daily activities (e.g. managing your finances, going out alone)

Medications and medical history

List medications (dosage, frequency) including over-the-counter and prescription:

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List vitamins and herbal supplements

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List current medical conditions

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Additional questions to ask the doctor

What are the tests I need to take and how long will it take to get a diagnosis?

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Will you refer me to a specialist?

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Could the medicines I'm taking be causing my symptoms?

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Do I have any other conditions that could be causing my symptoms or making them worse?

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What should I expect if it is Alzheimer's disease?

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Which treatments are available for Alzheimer's disease? What are the risks and benefits and possible side effects?

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What about participating in a clinical trial? What are the risks and benefits?

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Is there anything else I should know?

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When should I come back for another visit?

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Sources:
- "Preparing for your doctor's visit", American Alzheimer's Association.
- "Assessing patients complaining of memory impairment" in Geriatrics and Aging (April, 2008, volume 11, number 3) by Dr. Mario Masellis and Dr. Sandra Black.