

# Dementia

Dementia is an acquired global impairment of intellect memory and personality without impairment of consciousness.

OR

Dementia is a clinical syndrome characterized by a loss of previously acquired intellectual function in the absence of Impairment of arousal.

## Causes of dementia

- 1) Parkinson's diseases.
- 2) Multiple strokes.
- 3) Severe head injury.
- 4) Liver failure.
- 5) Hypo and hyper thyroidism.
- 6) Hypoglycemia.
- 7) Renal dialysis.
- 8) Hypopituitarism.
- 9) HIV.
- 10) Multiple sclerosis.

## **Clinical features of Dementia:**

- 1) Poor memory.
- 2) Disturbance of memory.
- 3) Impaired attention and concentration.
- 4) Difficult in new learning.
- 5) Loss of flexibility and adaptability in new situation.
- 6) Disorientation of time, place and person.
- 7) Slow thinking .
- 8) False ideas.
- 9) Mood disturbance.
- 10) Irritability.

## **Investigation:**

- 1) CT-scan.
- 2) MRI.
- 3) Blood test.
- 4) Chest X-ray.
- 5) ECG.

## Treatment

- 1) Symptomatic treatment.
- 2) Providing support for the patient.
- 3) Anticholinesterases.
  - Donepezil.
  - Rivastigmine.
  - Galantamine.

## Difference between Delirium and Dementia:

Traits	Delirium	Dementia
<b>Definition.</b>	Dementia is an acquired global impairment of intellect memory and personality without impairment of consciousness.	Delirium is a transient organic mental disorder characterized by psychological dysfunction usually fluctuating in degree.
<b>Onset</b>	Usually acute.	Usually chronic.
<b>Orientation</b>	Grossly disturbed.	Usually normal.
<b>Memory</b>	Immediate and recent memory disturbed.	Immediate memory is normal, previous acquired memory is disturbed.
<b>Comprehension</b>	Impaired.	Impaired in late stage.
<b>Sleep wake cycle</b>	Grossly disturbed	Usually normal.
<b>Attention and concentration</b>	Grossly disturbed.	Usually normal
<b>Perception.</b>	Visual illusion and hallucinations very common.	Hallucination may occur.
<b>Consciousness level</b>	Markedly reduced.	Reduced in severe case.
<b>Delusion</b>	Uncommon	Frequent
<b>Psychomotor activity</b>	Usually abnormal.	Usually normal.
<b>Reversibility</b>	Reversible	Irreversible