



## DEMENTIA

Dementia is not a specific disease. It is an umbrella term which describes a collection of symptoms of disorders affecting the brain. Dementia affects the brain's functions, such as memory, language, orientation and judgement, which affects the ability to perform every day tasks. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease.

### **Alzheimer's disease**

This type of dementia affects about two thirds of people with dementia. It is caused by nerve cells dying in certain areas of the brain, which also affects the connections between these nerve cells. As the disease progresses, it spreads and affects the cells in other parts of the brain.

### **Vascular dementia**

This type of dementia is the second most common form of dementia and is caused by damage to the brain due to the deprivation of oxygenated blood. Individuals often experience stroke-like symptoms which can cause physical problems alongside the dementia. Depression is also common with this type of dementia.

### **Lewy Bodies (DLB)**

Lewy Bodies are small protein deposits found inside the nerve cells in the brain. These deposits alter the way the brain functions. Approx 4 % of people who have dementia are affected by DLB and it is the third most common form. It affects motor skills, spatial orientation and hallucinations.

### **Rarer forms of dementia**

Including dementia associated with:

- Fronto-temporal dementia
- Parkinson's disease.
- Huntington's disease.
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease – CJD
- HIV
- Alcohol related dementia.
- Corticobasal degeneration.
- Progressive supranuclear palsy also known as Steele-Richardson-Olszewski syndrome