

Diagnosis of Dementia

There is no one test to determine if a senior has dementia. Instead, doctors diagnose dementia based on an evaluation of a number of factors that may include:

- 1. Medical history:** An evaluation of medical history, including any previous diagnoses, medications, and any family history of dementia.
- 2. Physical examination:** A physical examination to check for any physical signs of conditions that may cause dementia, such as high blood pressure or diabetes.
- 3. Cognitive and neurological assessments:** Tests will be performed to assess cognitive function, including memory, language skills, and problem-solving abilities. They may also perform a neurological exam to check for any abnormalities in the nerves or muscles.
- 4. Brain scans:** Brain imaging tests, such as a CT scan or an MRI can be used to get a detailed view of the brain and look for any abnormalities that may indicate dementia.
- 5. Laboratory tests:** Blood tests or other laboratory tests to check for any underlying medical conditions that may be causing your symptoms.

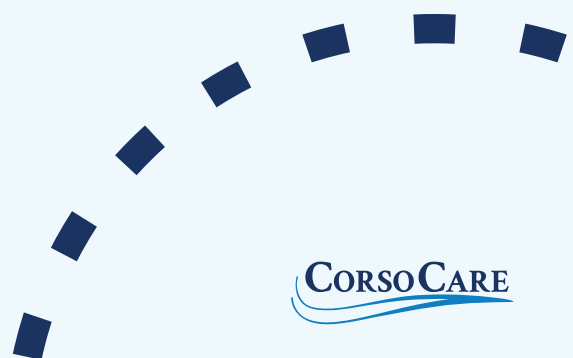
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Doctors are able to determine that a person has dementia based on these evaluations, however, it's more difficult to determine the exact type of dementia because the symptoms and brain changes of different types of dementia can overlap.

It is not uncommon for a doctor to diagnose dementia and not specify a type. Sometimes the dementia will need to progress a bit further before a final diagnosis can be made on the type of dementia.



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