

When you think of symptoms UTIs, uncomfortable itching, pain and the constant feeling of a full bladder may come to mind.

Though these are common symptoms of UTIs, seniors often exhibit additional symptoms including confusion.

Why is confusion a symptom of a UTI for seniors? Here's what you need to know:

Inflammation
from a UTI can cause
behavioral changes.

UTI delirium.

When our immune systems are fighting an infection, like a UTI, our bodies release chemicals the cause inflammation.
This inflammation can lead to swelling in the brain and disrupt senior's brain function.

Inflammation from a UTI can cause UTI delirium. The cognitive impairments and behavioral changes caused by the inflammation common with a UTI is called UTI delirium. Delirium is a short-term condition and can be cured once the underlying condition is treated.

Delirium causes behavioral changes. People experiencing delirium may seem aggressive, withdrawn or restless, and they may have hallucinations. This is why many people unfamiliar with the connection between dementia and UTIs confuse the two.

## **UTIs and Dementia**

It's important to understand the connection between dementia and UTIs for seniors. Why?

- UTIs can worsen symptoms of dementia.
- Someone with dementia may be more likely to hold their bladder which can lead to more frequent UTIs.
- Though many people would complain if they were experiencing symptoms of a UTI, someone with dementia may not.
- Seniors with UTIs should seek immediate medical attention to avoid complications like kidney infections and to maintain their cognitive function.

Source: Urinary Tract Infections and Dementia. (n.d.).
Alzheimer's Society.care Foundation. (n.d.).

For more information on urinary tract infections and how CorsoCare can support you and your loved one, call us at 248-438-8535.

