

Appendix 3: Types of Dementia

Type	Prevalence	Key Pathology & Pathophysiology	Key Clinical Features	Screening Tests
Alzheimer disease	40–50%	Reduced acetylcholine Neuritic plaques Neurofibrillary tangles	Decline in memory + one other cognitive domain (anomia, apraxia, agnosia, abstraction, visuospatial, executive)	MMSE Mini-Cog Time and change 3-item screen MoCA
Vascular dementia	5–10%	Association with cerebrovascular disease	Abrupt onset, stepwise decline, emotional lability + evidence of CVD, temporal relation between CVD and dementia	MMSE Time and change
Mixed dementia	20–25%	Changes associated with both Alzheimer and vascular dementia	Slow progressive decline + clinical vascular features: focal symptoms or neurologic signs	MMSE 3-question screen Time and change
Dementia with Lewy bodies	5–15%	Characteristic Lewy bodies	Two of: Early parkinsonism Hallucinations: often detailed, visual Fluctuation: cognition, attention and/or alertness	Serial MMSE to note fluctuations Very poor visuospatial
Frontotemporal dementia	5–10%	Primary: Pick's, ALS, idiopathic Secondary: EtOH, stroke, NPH, COPD with chronic hypoxia to frontal lobe	Not always consistent: insidious onset of behavioural symptoms (affective changes, poor insight, impulsivity, disinhibition, early neglect of hygiene, antisocial acts) Memory and perception better preserved	Luria hand test Word list Abstraction
Mild cognitive impairment			5-15% annual conversion to dementia	MoCA Dem-Tect

MMSE: Mini-Mental State Examination

CVD: Cerebrovascular disease

ALS: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

EtOH: Ethanol

NPH: normal pressure hydrocephalus

COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

