

Frontotemporal Dementia Stages and Symptoms	Behavioral & Personality FTD		Communication and Language FTD			Motor and Movement Disorder FTD			
<p>Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) is named because it primarily affects the frontal lobes and the temporal lobes. It is the most common dementia between the ages of 40-60. Sometimes referred to as Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration, the term FTLD is actually the post mortem name.</p>	bvFTD--Behavioral Variant FTD**	Pick's Disease**	PPA--Primary Progressive Aphasia	Semantic Dementia**	Logopenic Variant PPA**	ProSupra Nuclear Palsy--PSP**	Corticobasal Ganglionic Degeneration	FTD with Motor Neuron Disease	ALS with Dementia
Stage 1 - Normal Aging									
Stage 2 - Typical First Signs and Early Depression Symptoms*									
alterations in alertness									
apathy									
slow withdrawal of emotional responses									
agitation									
bursts of anger									
*signs of disinterest									
*apathy not related to being sad									
*little insight into being sad									
*no self-awareness of changes in mood									
*increased irritability									
*poor concentration									
*lack of attention during interaction									
*sadness or negative mood									
*poor appetite or increased over-eating									
*insomnia or hypersomnia									
***if sleeping more than 14 hours a day, increased risk for infections and atrophied muscles									
Stage 3 - Early Stage Symptoms									
sudden interest in drinking	x								
gradual loss of empathic response	x	x							
decreased insight into behavior	x	x							
shoplifting	x	x							
increase in weight -- 40 lbs in 6 months	x	x							
self-centered behavior	x	x							
uncaring behavior	x	x							
withdrawal from people and activities	x	x							

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increase in spontaneous behavior such as: inappropriate friendliness, speaking candidly, revealing personal information to strangers, becoming angry during routine tasks at job or at home, may appear restless or irritable	x	x	x						
unusual eating habits such as: food fixation (eating too much of a specific food) great craving for sweets, sucking and chewing on objects (pens, combs, spoons, etc.,) hyperoral, shovel food	x	x	x						
ignores social etiquette and boundaries such as: getting too close when speaking to others, tendency to hug, touch, talk in inappropriate or intimate ways (new behaviors for this person)	x	x	x						
displays poor judgement	x	x	x	x					
loss of facial empathy -- masked face	x	x				x			
decreased interest in spouse, children, and family	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
very mild short term memory loss	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
personal hygiene changes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
math skills good	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
visual ability good	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
mild word finding difficulty (anomia)			x	x	x				
apathetic appearance in whole body			x	x	x			x	
difficulty moving whole body or parts of body						x	x	x	x
struggles to form words (dysarthia)			x	x	x	x			
trembling limbs						x			
balance problems						x			
tipsy walking gait						x			
exhibits doll's eyes -- an inability to coordinate eye movements or aim the eye quickly up and down						x			
acalculia -- difficulty with math						x	x		
stiff muscles in motion or when still							x		
clumsy with one side of body (asymmetrical decline)							x		

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stiffness in one arm, followed by stiffness in one leg (paratonia)							x		
alien hand movements -- hand pushes away other objects or other hand							x		
magnetic hand -- hand seems drawn to other hand or other people's hands							x		
fasciculations (muscle twitches or flutters)								x	
muscle jerks								x	
muscle cramps								x	
loss of muscle tone								x	x
increase in falls and falls with injury						x	x	x	x
difficulty doing skilled hand movements with one or both hands or arms (apraxia) may result in difficult buttoning shirt, turning book pages, shaving, applying makeup, eating, writing, etc.						x	x	x	x
Stage 4 - Early Middle Stage									
judgement	x	x							
rational thought	x	x							
personality changes	x	x							
impulse control	x	x							
little concern about losses	x	x							
Rapid Eye Movement Disorder (REMD) -- Sleep disturbances	x	x							
trashing, kicking, punching, striking out while sleeping	x	x							
can read and write accurately	x	x		x	x				
loss or changes in executive function: manage time and attention, switch focus, plan and problem solve, integrate past experience with present action	x	x				x			
difficulty expressing words -- nonfluent aphasia			x						
incorrect grammar			x	x					

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difficulty naming objects or recognizing familiar words or faces			X	X					
performs ADLs			X	X	X				
slow response to conversation			X	X	X				
slow, weak, slurred, breathy, nasal speech (dysarthia)			X					X	
speaks at a normal rate -- fluent aphasia, but may be difficult to understand				X					
difficulty understanding speech of others				X					
expresses appropriate emotions				X					
slow rate of speech					X				
can repeat short, single words					X				
outbursts of laughing or crying						X			
akinesia -- absence or slowed movement						X	X		
bradykinesia -- lack of spontaneous movement							X		
shortness of breath due to weak muscles								X	X
Stage 5 - Late Middle Stage									
loss of insight									
repetition of behaviors									
memory problems	X	X							
severe cognitive deficits	X	X							
language skills functional late	X	X							
visuospatial skills are still functional	X	X							
great loss of affect -- masked face	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
increased sleep for day and night	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
difficulty swallowing (dysphagia)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
urinary incontinence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
severe loss of empathy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
difficulty adjusting mood to situation	X	X				X	X	X	
emotional ups and downs	X	X					X		
hesitance and slowed speech			X	X	X	X	X		
loss of language fluidity			X	X	X				

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mutism			X	X	X				
decreased motor movement skills						X	X	X	X
short term memory loss						X	X	X	X
muscle atrophy						X	X	X	X
struggles to form words (dysarthia)						X	X		
abnormal posturing or frozen movements							X	X	
unaware of one side of body							X		
inability to balance -- sitting or walking							X		
reflexes are over active								X	
Stage 6 - Late Stage Symptoms									
short term/long term memory affected									
may stay in constant motion, walks or moves for hours									
disheveled appearance									
beginning of severe weight loss									
bowel incontinence begins									
can feed self at times									
great loss of language/mutism									
difficult to engage									
appears lost in own world									
loss of total facial affect -- masked									
gait is greatly affected									
combative or aggressive behavior									
difficult to rehab									
disregards eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures									
Stage 7 - End Stage Symptoms									
unable to sit erect									
unable to walk									
speech is lost									
unable to hold head erect									
extreme risk for falls									
extreme risk for skin breakdown									

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semi-alert or asleep most of day									
loss of ability to chew and swallow food properly									
disinterest in food or drink									
extreme weight loss									
total care for all ADLs									
loss of ability to smile -- indicative death is near									
<p>**Some of the FTDs are recognized as a tauopathy disease. Tau is a protein found in the brain's cellular structure. Once tau begins to fold incorrectly in the cells, it disrupts and destroys the brain's ability to function. Alzheimer's Disease is also a tauopathy. This probably helps explain why persons with FTD eventually begin to have many of the same late symptoms as persons with Alzheimer's disease.</p>									