



ELDERConsult
GERIATRIC MEDICINE
Housecalls + Education

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Criminals Diagnose Dementia Faster Than Doctors Do!

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California Health Care Advocates

Webinar

Objectives

1. Define early onset dementia and how to identify it in the elders you work with.
2. Understand why there is an increased risk of fraud before diagnosis of dementia.
3. Specific steps to address financial abuse.

What is Dementia?

- Decline of brain function impairing Independent Activities of Daily Living (IADLs).
- Loss of
 - Memory (but not required)
 - Judgment
 - Language
 - Complex motor skills

May be only loss of risk assessment.

DEMENTIA

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

- **Early Onset**
- **Late Onset**

LEWY-BODY DEMENTIA

VASCULAR DEMENTIAS

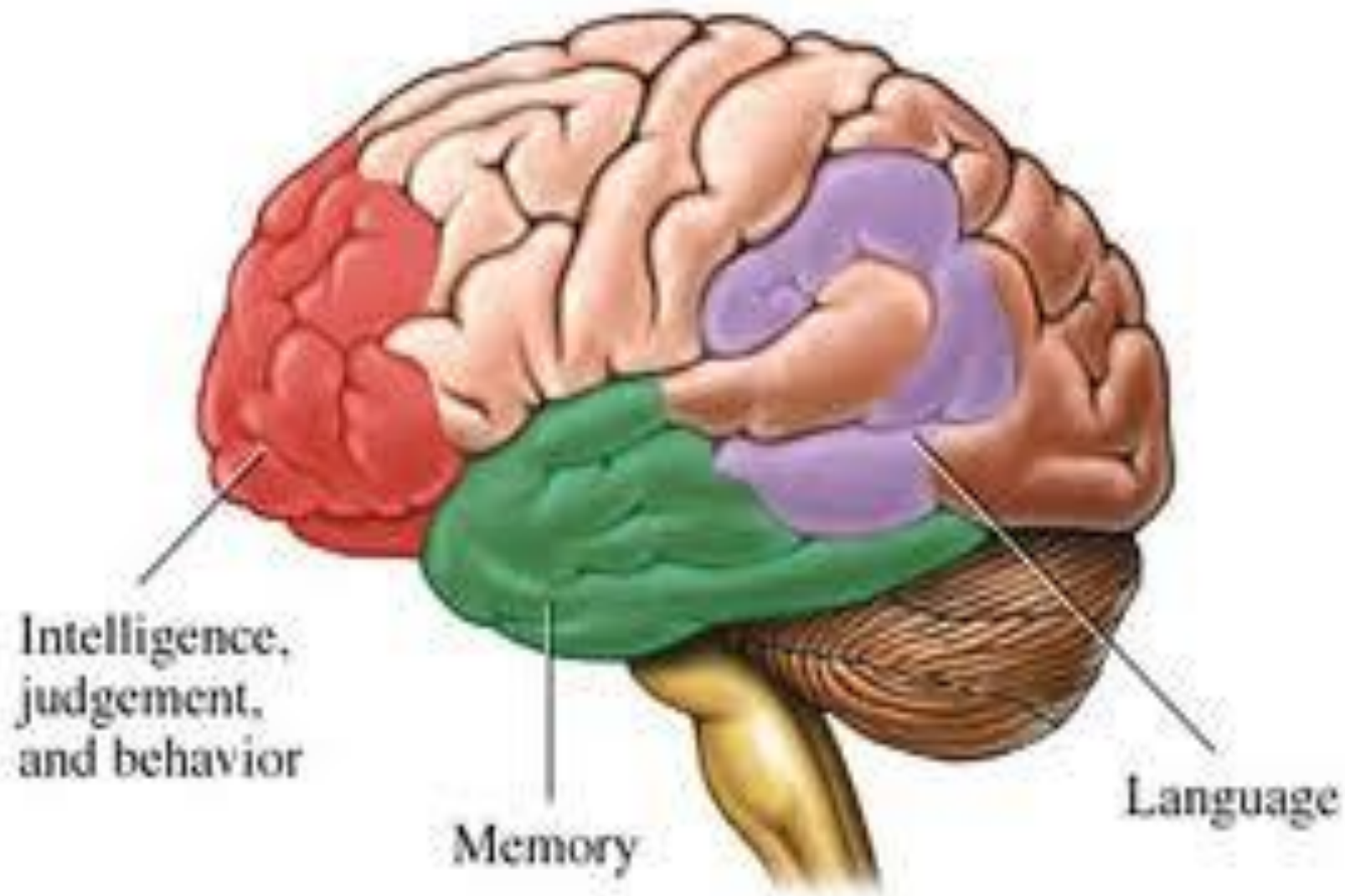
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FRONTO- TEMPORAL LOBE DEMENTIAS

OTHER DEMENTIAS:

- **Geriatric Syndromes**
- **Metabolic**
- **ETOH related**
- **Drugs/toxins**
- **White matter diseases**
- **Mass effect**
- **Depression or other mental conditions**
- **Infections**
- **Parkinson's**
- **Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)**
- **Huntington's Disease**
- **Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus**
- **Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome**





How to Diagnose Dementia:

- Mini-Mental Status Exam (MMSE)
- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MOCA)
- Neuropsychological Testing

How is dementia manifested in behaviors?

- Apathy
- Irritability
- Disinhibition
- Forgetting appointments, medications
- A personality change
- Unusual increase in risk taking

What is capacity?

The ability to understand risks and benefits of a proposed intervention and to make a reasoned decision

Evidence of incapacity:

- Deficit in at least one mental function
- Deficit must impact ability to act
- Isolated incidents are not enough
- Doctor's opinion alone is not sufficient

Different standards for capacity:

- Financial
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Marriage
- Testamentary
- Medical

Do you recognize these people?



Clint Eastwood at Republican National Convention
2012



Helen Thomas



Madame Liliane Bettencourt of L'Oreal

Types of financial elder abusers

- Family members
- Caregivers
- Professionals
- Scams/frauds



Frauds and Scams

- Telemarketing
- Internet
- Investments
- Charities
- Grandchildren in distress
- Prizes
- Free vacations
- Lottery & Sweepstakes
- Contractors (today only!)
- Veterans Benefit fraud

How do Criminals 'diagnose' dementia so quickly?

- Loneliness
- Know how to solicit their pity for their 'plight'
- Wide net, and once the elder responds then that name is placed on a list that is sold
- Nigerian Bank scam.... Says Nigerian to weed out skeptics
- Undue influence

What to do?

- Determine capacity
 - Likely need neuro-psychological testing
- Determine undue influence
 - Who benefits from the decisions
- Address vulnerability, independence

Case Study 1



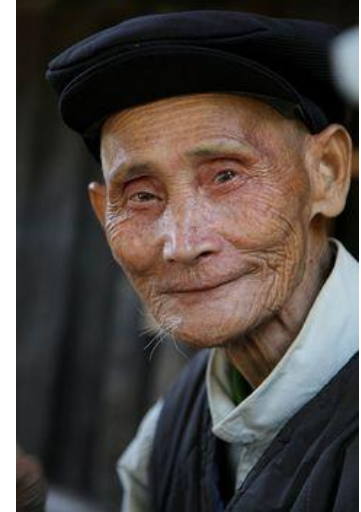
- 85 year old woman
- Brought to ER for a mental status change
- She has not paid her health insurance for months
- Resident ordered a head CT and an MRI

Case Study 2



- 83 year old man with diabetes, s/p CABG with resulting poor short term memory
- He is moved to a SNF
- His MMSE is 16
- Two MDs say he has medical decision making capacity
- RN says that he understands what he is doing when she speaks with him

Case Study 3



74 year old AM with diabetes, prostate cancer

- He fled his daughter's home to be with siblings, does not trust her.
- Evaluation: he is aware of his medical condition, trusts his siblings. Cannot determine 25% of \$22.50.
- PMD determined dementia, Dtr sent him to AL 40 miles away from her or family, cheaper...

Case Study 4

- 72 year old man was a successful fund manager, supports his parents.
- For last 2 years he has made very poor financial judgments, unlike his work before.
- His neuropsychological testing is 'normal'.
- Iowa Gambler's Task.



Case Study 5

- 84 year old WM with Parkinson's Disease
- Given Seroquel 200 mg at dinner, unresponsive...
- Isolated in Board/Care , able to communicate in the morning.



Case Study 6

- 86 yo WF with HTN and caregiver taken over her financials. Pt denies any medical issues or medications. CG using her money to rehab a house to make into a board/care

Undue influence



Summary

- Criminals cast a wide net; telephone, online, in person...
- More access now to elders
- MMSE poor screen, MoCA better
- Neuropsychological testing best
- Undue influence

Questions? Comments?

- Visit our website: elderconsult.com
- Follow us on Facebook: fb.com/elderconsult
- Call us directly: 650-357-8834

Thank you,
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