

Appendixes

Appendix A

Diseases and Conditions That Cause Dementia

Dementia can be caused by more than 70 diseases and conditions, including the following:

- progressive degenerative diseases, including those in which dementia is inevitable, such as Alzheimer's disease and Pick's disease, and those in which dementia may or may not occur, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases;
- . cardiovascular diseases that decrease blood supply to the brain: this can cause loss of brain tissue in the form of many small strokes (multi-infarct dementia) or one or more large strokes; bleeding into the brain, usually related to hypertension, can also cause loss of brain tissue;
- severe depression;
- intoxication caused by prescription and nonprescription drugs and alcohol;
- . infections that affect the brain, including Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS);
- metabolic disorders;
- nutritional disorders;
- . normal pressure hydrocephalus; and
- . space-occupying lesions, such as brain tumors and subdural hematoma.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, "Differential Diagnosis of Dementing Diseases," NIH Consensus Development Conference Statement 6(1 1):1-6, Oct. 19-21, 1987.