Signs of Memory Loss

- Gradual decline of memory
- Decreased ability to perform routine tasks
- Decline in clear thinking
- Problems with judgment and reasoning
- Confusion, gets lost easily
- Depression, anxiety, or hallucinations

Our Mission

The mission of the Washington University Memory Diagnostic Center is to enhance the quality of life for people living with dementia, by providing exceptional care for the patient as well as support and education for the entire family.

Multidisciplinary Treatment Team

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Visit our web site at http://MemoryLoss.wustl.edu

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Directions from Highway 64/40
Exit at Kingshighway North.
Turn right at Parkview Place.
Go to end of block, cross Euclid Ave. and enter the North Garage.
Serious memory loss is not a part of normal aging. Greater public awareness of the impact of memory loss and dementia has led to increased concern by people affected, as well as their families. If you think this is a problem for you or a loved one, you can have your questions answered at our Memory Diagnostic Center.

Ten percent of people over age 65, and half of those over 85 do develop memory and thinking problems.

The most common cause of dementia in older people is Alzheimer’s disease. But there are other brain disorders that can also cause dementia, including strokes, frontal temporal disorders, Lewy body disease, and other conditions affecting the memory portion of the brain.

Other potential causes include depression, drug interactions, and thyroid problems. These are often reversible if detected early. A thorough evaluation of symptoms is necessary to determine the correct diagnosis.

About Memory Loss

The purpose of the Center is to evaluate people who may have a memory disorder, and to work with their doctors and families to begin therapy to slow the disease process and to make life style arrangements.

Patients need a referral from their physician. For the first appointment, patients are asked to bring with them another person who can help answer questions, such as a spouse, friend or caregiver.

Every effort is made to provide a complete evaluation during one appointment. Patients are seen by a full team of a physician, trained nurse practitioner, and psychometrist, all working together to provide a comprehensive integrated evaluation.

Testing

There is no single test to diagnose dementia. At the Center, the diagnosis is made by reviewing the patient history, giving a complete physical and neurological exam, and assessing memory skills with paper-pencil tests.

Previous medical test results, including CT and MRI scans of the head and blood tests are reviewed.

Additional testing may be ordered at the time of the first visit.

Follow Up

Early detection of dementia allows the patient to begin therapy designed to slow down the progression of memory loss.

Although there is no cure for most dementia, drug treatment may improve symptoms, and enhance quality of life.

Some patients are interested in volunteering for clinical studies on new treatments.

For Appointments Call 314-286-1967