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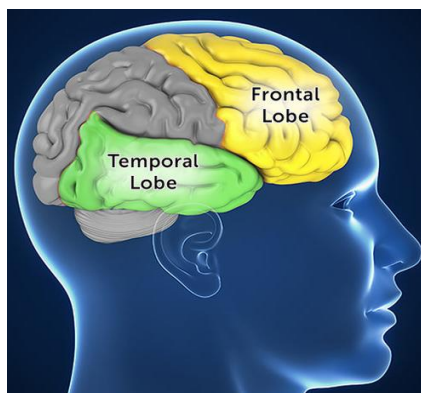


# Fronto- Temporal Dementia

## FACTSHEET

**Dementia is a group of symptoms which can affect memory, thinking and behaviour severely enough to interfere with daily life.**

**Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) is a group of conditions, resulting from damage to nerve cells in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain.**



### **How does it develop?**

The cause of FTD is not well understood. Some researchers have linked it to having abnormal proteins in the brain. The proteins mainly build up in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain. These areas are important for controlling language/communication, behaviour, and the ability to plan and organise.

### **What are the symptoms?**

FTD can affect behaviour, personality, communication, emotions and movement. These may include:

- Lack of empathy
- Dramatic personality changes
- Poor judgement
- Problems with communication skills
- Problems with language
- Problems with planning or concentration
- Lacking insight into true extent of problems

### **What are the different types of FTD?**

- Behavioural variant FTD (bvFTD)- The first symptoms are usually changes in behaviour, personality or thinking abilities.
- Primary progressive aphasia (PPA)- (See Factsheet on PPA)



### **How is FTD treated?**

While there is currently no cure for FTD, there are some important things which can help. These include:

- Medication to treat some symptoms- Antidepressants to treat depression/ anxiety, or antipsychotic medications to treat some behaviours.
- Receiving rehabilitative support, such as speech and language therapy to help with communication problems or occupational therapy to maximise abilities to do different tasks.
- Counselling and support for carers and the persons affected.
- Having an enduring power of attorney drafted with the person with the FTD and their solicitor.
- Changes in lifestyle, such as regular exercise

### **REMEMBER**

As you may not be aware of all your symptoms, it is a good idea to take a family member or close friend along with you to your appointments. You may also want to take a written list of questions you want to ask your health professional.