Alzheimer's disease: Impact on the workplace



Alzheimer's disease (AD) is not just a disease of old age. The early stages of AD affect many working Canadians, both as individuals living with the disease or as care partners for people living with AD. As the Canadian population ages, people will be working longer and are more likely to be affected by AD during their career.

What is Alzheimer's disease (AD)?1

- Progressive brain disease that impairs thinking, memory and independence
- Most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60 to 80% of all diagnoses
- Not a normal part of aging and requires proper medical assessment and care

What is Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) due to AD?^{1,2}





within 1 to 2 years



5 years

What are the stages of AD? 3, 4, 5, 6

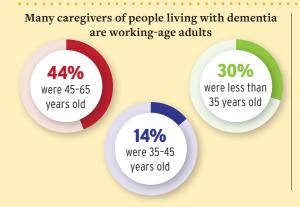
| | Preclinical AD | > | Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) due to AD | Mild AD dementia | Moderate AD dementia | Severe AD dementia |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Symptoms | Pre-symptomatic, but changes in the brain occur | | Very mild symptoms that may not interfere with everyday activities | Symptoms interfere with some everyday activities | Symptoms interfere with many everyday activities | Symptoms interfere with most everyday activities |
| Examples | | | Find it hard to make decisions, finish tasks or follow instructions Family and friends notice changes | Trouble with words or remembering names Losing or misplacing objects | Trouble with bladder and bowel control Personality and behavioural changes | Lost awareness of recent experiences and surroundings Declining physical abilities, including walking, sitting and swallowing |
| Average time in each stage | Up to 20 years | | 3-7 years | 2-4 years | 3-8 years | 1-4 years |

How does AD impact the workplace?

- Many people are still working when diagnosed with AD; they may have dependent children or major financial commitments
- About **5-6%** of AD diagnoses occur **before the age of 65**⁷

Caregivers in the workplace8

- There are **350,000** caregivers for people with dementia in Canada
 - This represents the equivalent of **235,000** full-time jobs
 - This number is projected to grow 188% by 2050







References

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