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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER Factsheet

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What is dementia?

Dementia is characterised by significant cognitive impairment. Symptoms include memory impairment, aphasia (impaired language functioning), apraxia (aberrant movement), agnosia (inability to identify objects, people, sound or smell), and impaired executive functioning (for example, the inability to think abstractly, plan, initiate or stop actions). Other symptoms may include behavioural disturbances, anxiety, apathy, delirium, and mood and sleep disturbances. PTSD is associated with a high prevalence of psychiatric comorbidities, and aging may increase the risk of developing comorbidities such as dementia.

What is the evidence for dementia in people with PTSD?

Moderate to low quality evidence finds a small increased risk of dementia in older veterans with PTSD compared to those without PTSD.

For more information see the technical table



NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about PTSD and its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at neura.edu.au/donate