

Contact us

For more information or advice, talk to a member of staff or the:

Alzheimer's Society

South West Area Office International House

Bank Road

Kingswood

Bristol

BS15 8LX

0117 967 2975

alzheimers.org.uk/factsheets

For information on Trust Services, visit

www.awp.nhs.uk

PALS

To make a comment, raise a concern or make a complaint, please contact the Trust's Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

Tel: 01225 362900

Free phone: 0800 073 1778

Email: awp.pals@nhs.net

Other formats and languages

If you need this information in other formats such as large print, Braille) or another language, please call the PALS number.

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**Avon and Wiltshire Mental
Health Partnership**

NHS Trust

Frontotemporal Lobe Dementia

**A specific loss of brain ability leading to
characteristic behaviours**

Introduction

The way we behave with our family, friends and wider society is based on the things we learn as we develop as human beings. For most of us this means that we behave in ways consistent with society's normal standards.

Continuing to behave in these expected ways is dependent on our brains continuing to function normally but in Frontotemporal Lobe Dementia the part of our brain which controls our behaviour doesn't work properly.

What is Frontal Lobe Dementia?

This dementia is uncommon, but tends to occur in middle aged people. In this disorder, the part of the brain behind the forehead and temples ceases to function normally, either because the nerves cease to work properly or the blood supply to this part of the brain is impaired.

When these parts of the brain stop working properly the person starts to behave in uncharacteristic ways. They may

- become aggressive
- become loud and dogmatic
- behave in a sexual manner in public places without apparent embarrassment
- start to adopt obsessional behaviours, needing to stick to particular routines
- start to favour sweet foods
- lose language skills, may speak less and have difficulty finding the right words
- become very lethargic and unmotivated to look after themselves.

Memory will not be affected, at least in the early stages which may mean that people will struggle to understand that the person is seriously unwell.

Managing the illness

Like other dementias, there is no cure for Frontotemporal Lobe Dementia.

Care involves

- Managing any needs that you have.
- Trying to avoid confrontation and using distraction techniques
- antidepressants to improve mood
- Anxiolytic and antipsychotic medications can promote a more relaxed attitude but may have some side-effects
- We can offer advice and explanations so that the disorder is understood
- We can use behavioural approaches aimed at strengthening positive behaviours and reducing the problematic behaviours.

This is a particularly challenging illness for both the person and their loved ones. Families are likely to require a lot of support and the Alzheimer's Society can provide additional information (see overleaf).

For information about a wide range of dementia-related topics, visit alzheimers.org.uk/factsheets