



## Alzheimer's Disease

### Described

- Progressive
- Degenerative
- Irreversible
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of irreversible dementia accounting for about 64% of cases.

### Genetics and Alzheimer's

- Two types: Sporadic (90 to 95% of cases); late onset  
Familial (5 to 10%); symptoms begin in 40s to 50s

### Characteristics

- Onset is gradual
- Eventually affects all aspects of a person's life including:
  - mental abilities
  - emotions
  - moods
  - behaviour
  - ability to carry out daily activities (like eating and grooming).
- Symptoms can include:
  - memory loss that affects day-to-day functioning
  - difficulty performing familiar tasks
  - problems with language
  - disorientation of time and place
  - poor or decreased judgement
  - problem with abstract thinking
  - misplacing things

[Information Sheet No. 15 has a corresponding Challenge Sheet No. C15]