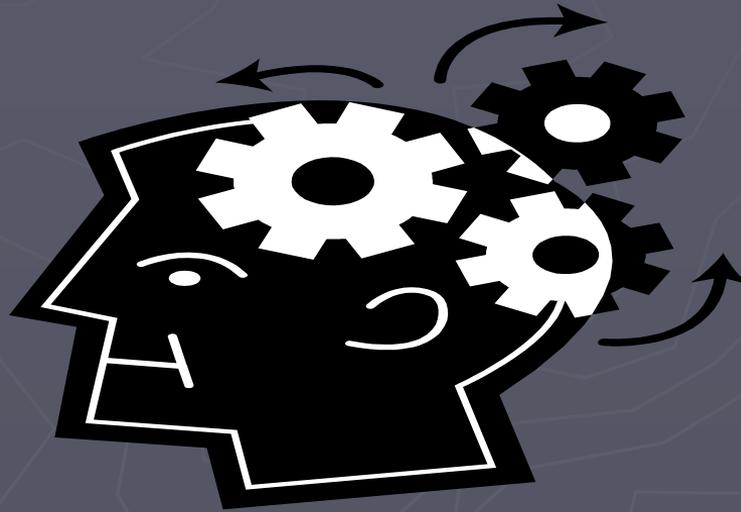


# Delirium and Dementia



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# Delirium

- State of temporary but acute mental confusion
  - Common problem
  - Life-threatening syndrome
- Often preventable and/or reversible

# Delirium: Etiology and Pathophysiology

- Dementia is leading risk factor
  - Delirium is a risk factor for subsequent development of dementia
  - Link to onset
    - Stress
    - Surgery
    - Sleep deprivation
    - Pain and depression
      - Especially in postop older patients

# Delirium: Etiology and Pathophysiology

- Systemic illness
  - Infections, cardiovascular, endocrine, or toxic-metabolic
- Primary cerebral disease
  - Head injury, stroke, increased ICP, infection and epilepsy

# Delirium

## Mnemonic for Causes

- **D**ementia, dehydration
- **E**lectrolyte imbalances, emotional stress
- **L**ung, liver, heart, kidney, brain
- **I**nfection, ICU
- **R**x Drugs
- **I**njury, immobility
- **U**ntreated pain, unfamiliar environment
- **M**etabolic disorders

# Delirium: Diagnostic Tests

- History and Physical Exam
- Lab Tests
- ECG
- CT or MRI
- Lumbar Puncture
- EEG

# Delirium: Nursing Management

- Treatment is important: potentially reversible
- Focus on eliminating precipitating factors
- If secondary to infection: antibiotic therapy needed
- Reorientation & behavioral interventions

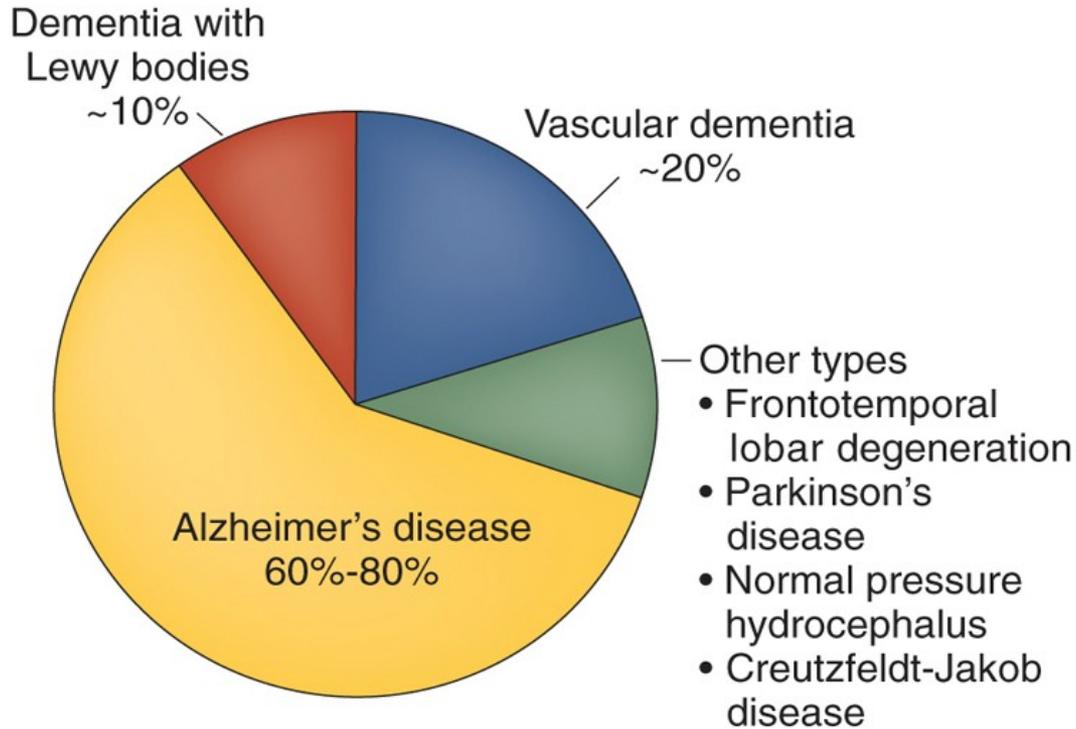
# Dementia

- Chronic & Progressive deterioration
- Gradual decline in memory, language, and higher executive functions
- Interferes with social and daily functions
- Usually alert and aware

# Dementia: Etiology & pathophysiology

- Treatable & untreatable conditions
  - May be reversible
  - Prolonged exposure may be irreversible
- Most common causes
  - Neurodegenerative conditions
  - Vascular diseases
  - Toxic, metabolic, or nutritional diseases
  - Immunologic or systemic diseases

# Dementia: Causes



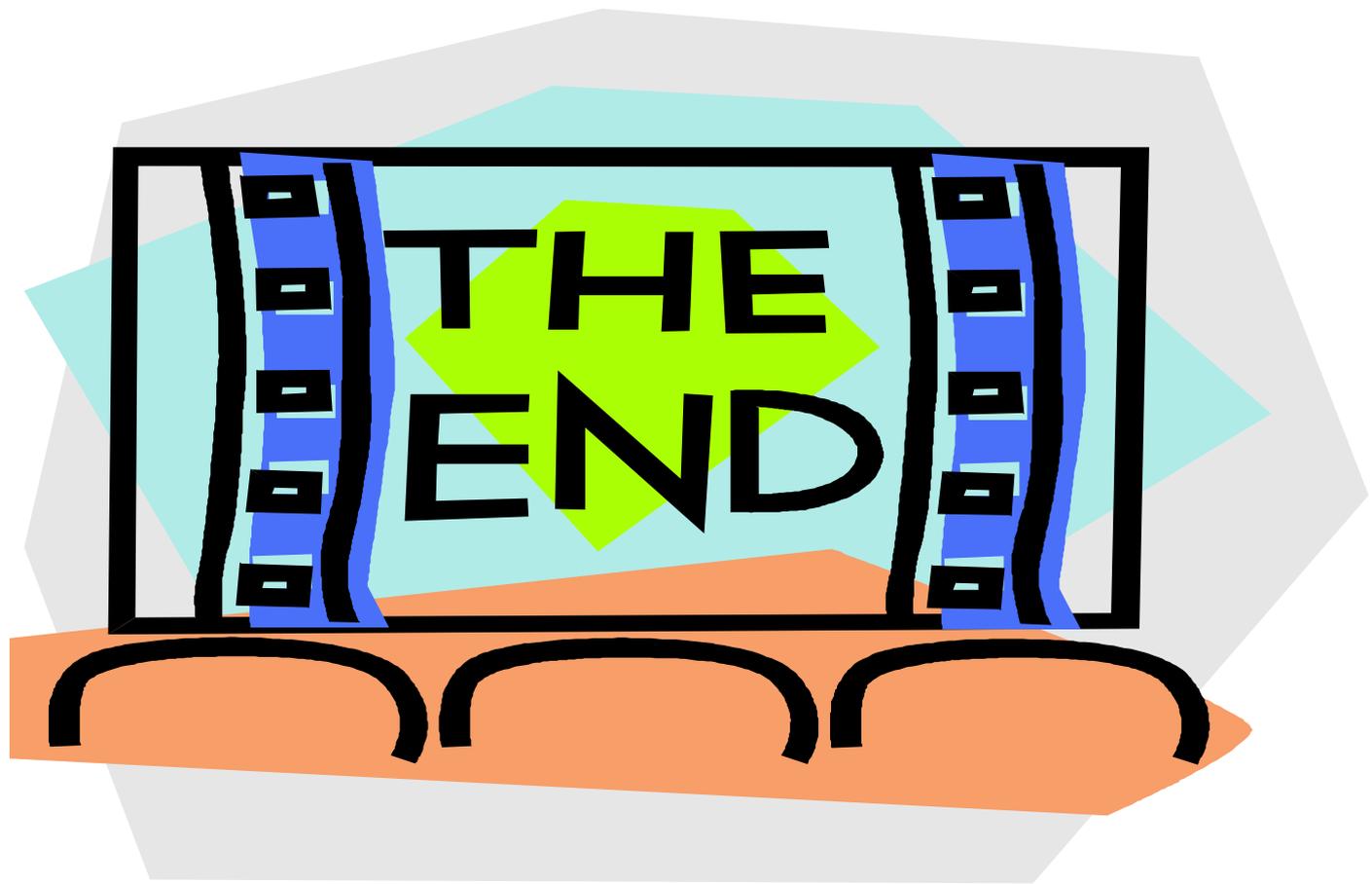
# Dementia

## ➤ **Diagnosis**

- Focused on determining the cause
- Medical, neurologic, & psychological history
- Rule out other medical condition

## ➤ **Nursing Management**

- Similar to management of Alzheimer's
- Treatment of risk factors



**THE  
END**