Aging and the Brain ...

Susan Wehry MD, Director of AgingME Center for Excellence in Public Health Associate Clinical Professor College of Osteopathic Medicine University of New England

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$1,001,659. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.



UNIVERSITY OF

INOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

MAINE



I'm glad you're here

Goals

Educate Reduce worry Increase confidence



Hurdles

Heterogeneity

Ageism

Anxiety

Pandemic Aftermath

Misinformation

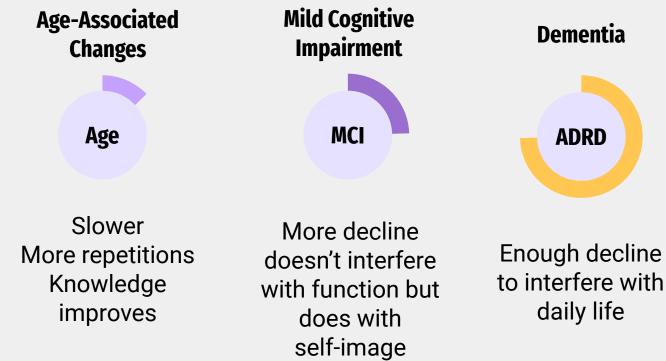


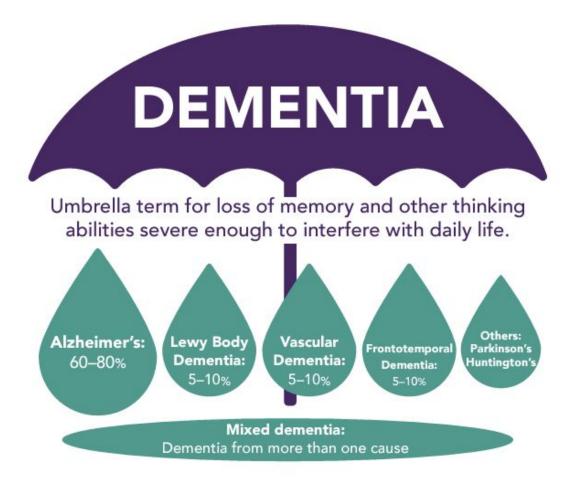




What happens to brain power?

Thinking, remembering, doing math, making decisions, using words





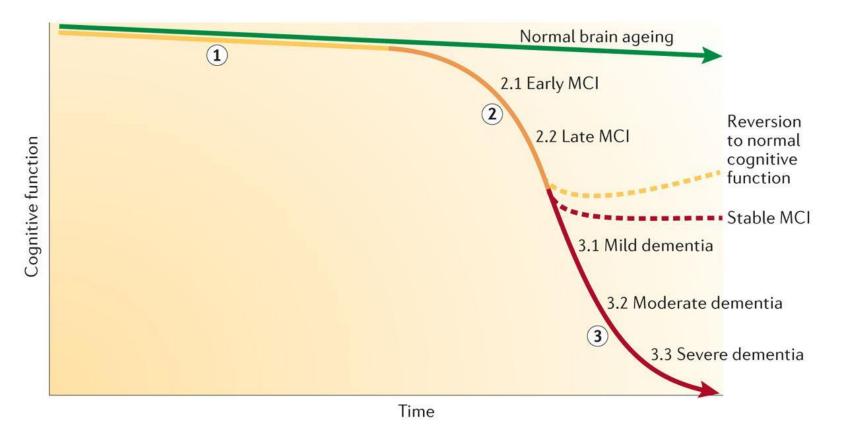
From the Alzheimer's Assocation, www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/what-is-dementia

DEMENTIA PREVENTION IS POSSIBLE, not the only goal

	Did you know that there are known risks for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias ?				
	not enough aerobic physical activity	cigarette smoking	excessive alcohol use	obesity	
	hypertension	diabetes	depression	hearing loss	
	Talk to your l	Keep your br health care provider about bit.ly/mr	t things you can do to redun7120a2	uce your risk MMWWT	
Dowr	nload Image [PNG]				

- Terminology
 - Primary, Secondary, Tertiary

- Approaches
 - \circ Reduce risk
 - Increase protection



Risk factors

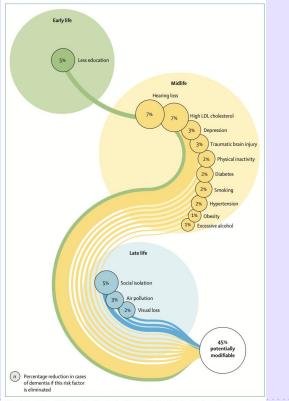


Figure 9: Population attributable fraction of potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia



14 modifiable

Life Course

45%

Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2024 report of the *Lancet* **standing Commission** Livingston, Gill et al. The Lancet, Volume 404, Issue 10452 572 - 628

Pathways

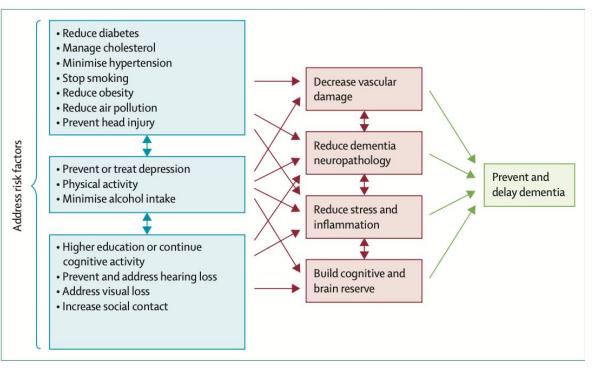
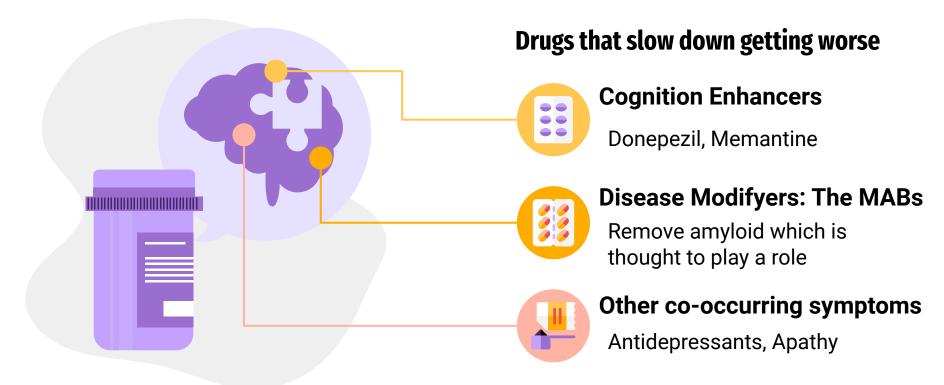


Figure 2: Possible brain mechanisms for enhancing or maintaining cognitive reserve and risk reduction of potentially modifiable risk factors in dementia

Dementia Drugs

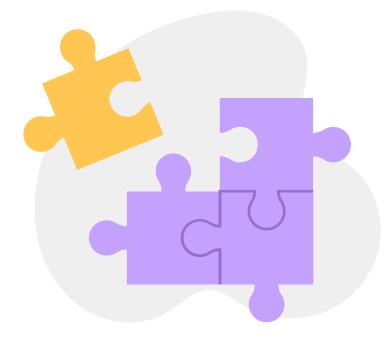


Monoclonal antibody therapies:

Aducanumab (Aduhelm) Lecanemab (Leqembi) Donanemab

Apolipoprotein E ϵ 4 (ApoE ϵ 4) homozygotes (approximately 15% of Alzheimer's disease patients) treated with this class of medications, have a higher incidence of ARIA, including symptomatic, serious, and severe radiographic ARIA

Based on amyloid hypothesis Act like the body's immune system Very early stages only NB: Black Box Warning



Here's what you can do! To stay healthy To reduce risk To live well with dementia

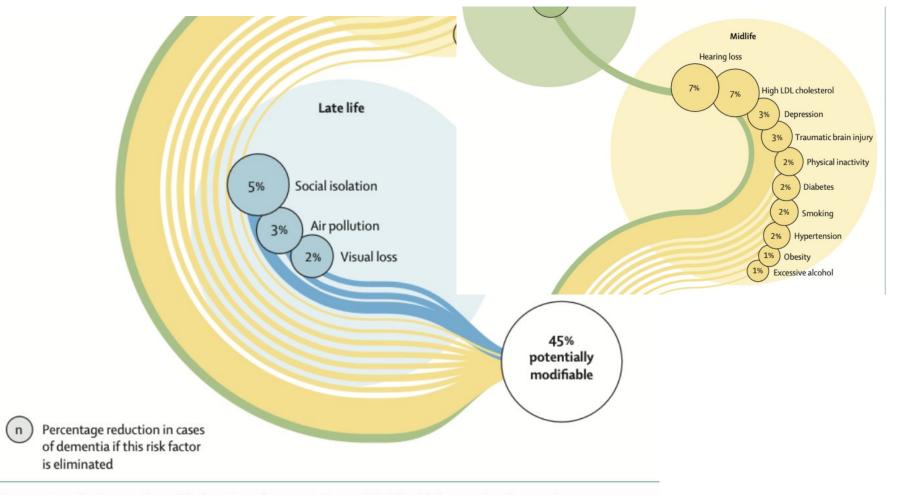


Figure 9: Population attributable fraction of potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia

Life Course Approach: Key Factors Late Life (65+)



Exercise your

ÍIII

14 interventions Jl of Neurology 2017

Exercise increases

Brain connections

Reduces stress hormones

Best way to ...

- Improve learning and memory
- Protect from brain cells from dying
- Lift spirits and improve depression

BOTTOM LINE: 150 min/week (30 min/day) Aerobic (heart rate up) activity

Helps blood flow

Exercise (and rest) your brain



Challenging Mental Activity

Creative arts, new skills, lifelong learning

Sleep/Sleep Apnea

7-9 hours/night

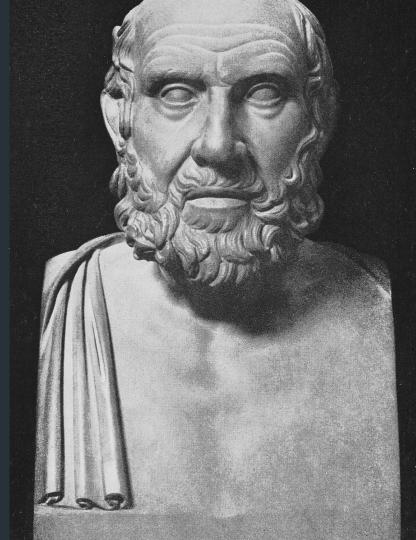
Stress Reduction

Meditation, Mindfulness, Prayer 12-20 minutes/day Natural world

"That which is used, develops,

that which is not, wasteth away"

Hippocrates 460-337 (B.C.)



Exercise your spirit!

Friends Purpose



Eat a Healthy Diet/Stay hydrated



Mediterranean

DASH

Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension



Eat a Healthy Diet

Focus on	vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, legumes, potatoes, whole grains, herbs, spices, fish, seafood, and extra virgin olive oil		
Low to moderate consumption	poultry, eggs, cheese, yogurt, red wine		
Limit or avoid	red meat, sugar-sweetened beverages, added sugars, processed meat, refined grains, other highly processed foods, beers, and liqors		



Towards a dementiainclusive society

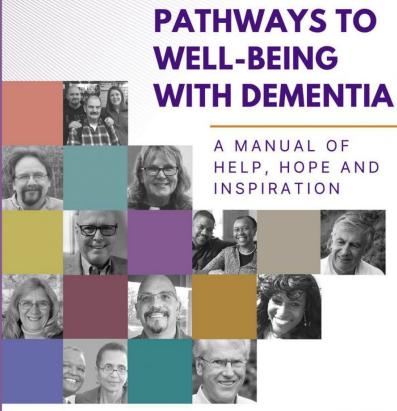
WHO toolkit for dementia-friendly initiatives (DFIs)





Research Project: Optimal Engagement for People Living with Dementia

Paradigm Shift: From cure to chronic disease management and living well



Essential information by people living with dementia, care partners and leading dementia specialists. Developed by:



Creating a better society in which to live with dementia





Technology helps balance safety with greater independence

Attitude Matters

02

04

"Older individuals with more positive self-perceptions of aging outlived those with less positive self-perceptions of aging by 7 ½ years"

Take a Personal Inventory **01**

Schedule an annual Wellness visit

Ask for a cognitive screen **03**

Choose one new activity

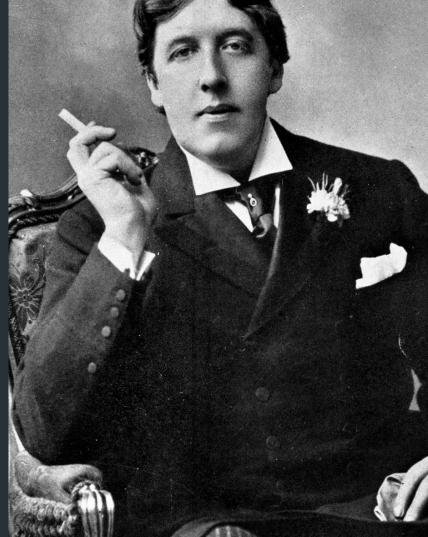
Where to start?



"To get back my youth I would do anything in the world,

except take exercise, get up early, or be respectable"

The Picture of Dorian Gray, 1891



Thank you for your attention

Let's chat

agingme.org

Created with SlidesGo

