



# Geriatric Fast Facts

## **Topic: Signs of Early Dementia**

The most common symptom in **early dementia** is **diminished short term memory**.

Signs may include repeating self and misplacing belongings.

### **10 Warning Signs of Dementia**

(The Alzheimer's Society of Canada)

1. Difficulty performing familiar tasks (eg, driving, finances, household duties, hobbies)
2. Problems with language (eg, word finding difficulties)
3. Disorientation to time and place
4. Poor or decreased judgment
5. Problems with abstract thinking
6. Misplacing things
7. Changes in mood and behaviour (mood swings, emotional lability and depression are common)
8. Changes in personality ('He's not quite himself')
9. Loss of initiative/apathy
10. Memory loss affecting day-to-day function

Individuals with **early dementia** can usually compensate quite well when they follow established routines in familiar environments. However, they can decline acutely when there's a disruption in their usual routine and/or surroundings (eg, hospitalization).

*....Next Fast Facts on Risks for Developing Dementia.....*