

ACTIVITY 6B STUDENT HANDOUT

DEMENTIA CHART

	Alzheimer's	Vascular	Alcohol-induced
damage to brain	plaques (<i>protein deposits</i>), tangles (<i>of protein fibers</i> ,) neurotransmitter damage, brain cell death which causes atrophy (<i>shrinkage</i>)	atherosclerotic vessels to brain can cause stroke which leads to tissue death and atrophy	irreversible cell death
symptoms for diagnosis	memory loss that affects job skills, difficulty performing familiar tasks, problems with language, disorientation of time and place, poor or decreased judgment, problems with abstract thinking, misplacing things, changes in mood or behavior, changes in personality, loss of initiative	abrupt onset; otherwise, basically same symptoms as Alzheimer's; history of stroke, atherosclerosis, diabetes and/or a high fat diet	symptoms such as forgetfulness and confusion like Alzheimer's; history of excessive use of alcohol either in the present or past
heredity	appears to be somewhat genetic, since it occurs in families	family history of diabetes, obesity, genetically altered fat metabolism	The ability to metabolize alcohol is hereditary; groups such as Native Americans and Japanese do not have the enzyme to break up alcohol. Addictive personalities or the desire to escape reality are not hereditary.
onset	slow onset; can occur as early as the age of 40, but usually occurs after 65	abrupt onset; usually in men	slow onset; age of onset varies (depends on when alcohol abuse started and degree of abuse)
prevention	uncontrollable; there are currently no ways to prevent the disease	controllable; control hypertension, weight, and/or diet	controllable; eliminate/limit alcohol intake