

Resource Sheet: Introduction to Dementia, Geriatric Care, and Special Considerations for People with HIV

- Dementia includes:
 - Cognitive impairment in multiple domains (Language, memory, attention, planning, etc.)
 - Impairment interferes with daily function (chores, driving, paying bills, taking meds, etc.)
 - There is no alternative explanation like intoxication, depression, or other illness
- Impairment that does not interfere with daily function is termed *Mild Cognitive Impairment*.

- Dementia risk factors:
 - Dementia is more common with age
 - Dementia is NOT a normal part of aging
 - People with HIV may be at higher risk of dementia due to high prevalence of risk factors (like smoking & high blood pressure)



- Dementia Features
 - Typically noticed first by family
 - Slowly progressive over years
 - Diagnosis is often delayed
 - Widely variable person to person
 - Can be accelerated by medical illness

