

FACT SHEET



FOR DENTIST ON DEMENTIA

- 10% of patients over the age of 65 may have dementia.
- Dementia is the loss of multiple intellectual functions including memory, (amnesia), language (aphasia), motor skills (apraxia), and recognition (agnosia). Most dementia patients hide and deny cognitive loss.



- Dementia patients will not remember symptoms or home-care instructions.
- Dental disease may cause agitation, hostility or weight loss in dementia patients.
- Dementia patients may not understand verbal directions.
- Dementia patients may forget how to use a tooth properly insert dentures, or open their mouth.



- Patients may not remember you as their dentist.
- Dementia patients frequently become more confused with narcotics and benzodiazepines.
- Dementia patients are not intrinsically dangerous but do require patience and time to assure compliance.



For additional information or inquiries, please call the Dementia Education and Training Program at 1-800-457-567