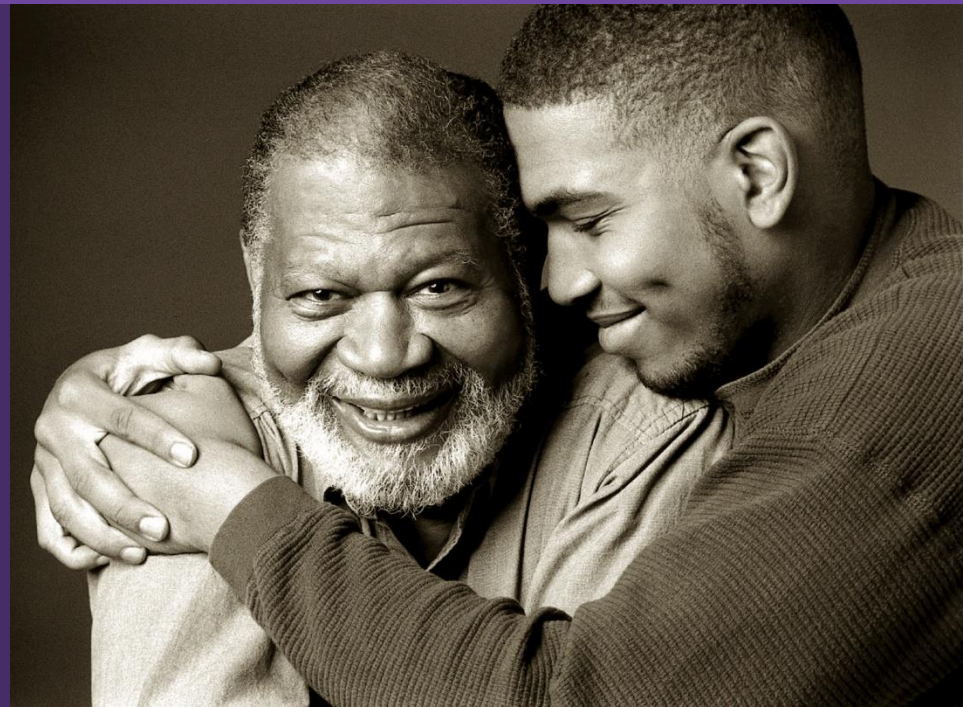


alzheimer's  association™

The Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association

MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's
Association Safe Return®
Saving Lives Together



By: Kim Franklin

The Problem....

- Man w/ dementia left his home by car at 9:00am to go to the store in his local neighborhood...7 hours later he ran over a curb in a Good Samaritan's yard 4 counties away
- Elderly woman w/ Alzheimer's got on greyhound bus in NYC to Atlanta (with many stops in between)...7 days later she was found by Good Samaritan back in NYC
- A 77 y/o man with Alzheimer's drove his car on the wrong side of the road and hit a tractor trailer head on...killing himself and the other driver (a 40 y/o man)
- Elderly woman w/ Alzheimer's wandered out of her home while husband was in the other room in April 2004...her remains were found on Christmas Eve 2004 only 500 yards from her house

After completing the training, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the risks associated with wandering behavior
- List techniques for effectively interacting with a person who has Alzheimer's disease
- Describe ways to recognize a person who may be affected by Alzheimer's disease
- Demonstrate knowledge of situations you may frequently encounter involving a person with Alzheimer's disease
- Identify benefits of the MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return® and resources available to assist



Alzheimer's disease

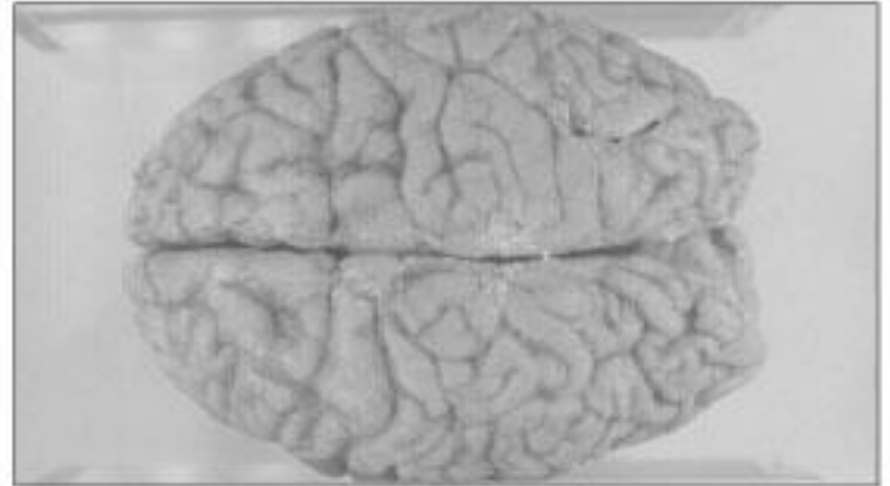
- Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerative disease that attacks the brain and results in impaired memory, thinking, and behavior.
- Common symptoms:
 - memory loss
 - problems with reasoning & judgment
 - disorientation to time and place (long term memory)
 - difficulty in learning
 - loss of language skills
 - a decline in the ability to perform familiar tasks

Alzheimer's disease (cont.)

- The rate of progression varies for each individual
- Every person with Alzheimer's disease (AD) is different
- The time from onset of symptoms until death averages 8 years
- Lifespan ranges 3-20 years
- More than 7 out of 10 persons with Alzheimer's live at home

A Visual of Alzheimer's Disease

A. The brain of a normal elderly person



B. The brain of a person with Alzheimer's disease



So What is Dementia?

- ◆ Loss of cognitive functioning serious enough to interfere with daily functioning
- ◆ Causes changes in:
 - ◆ memory
 - ◆ language
 - ◆ thought
 - ◆ navigation
 - ◆ behavior
 - ◆ personality / mood

Reversible causes of dementia

Depression, delirium

Emootional disorders

Metabolic disorders (e.g., hypothyroidism)

Eye and ear impairments

Nutritional (e.g., B12 deficiency)

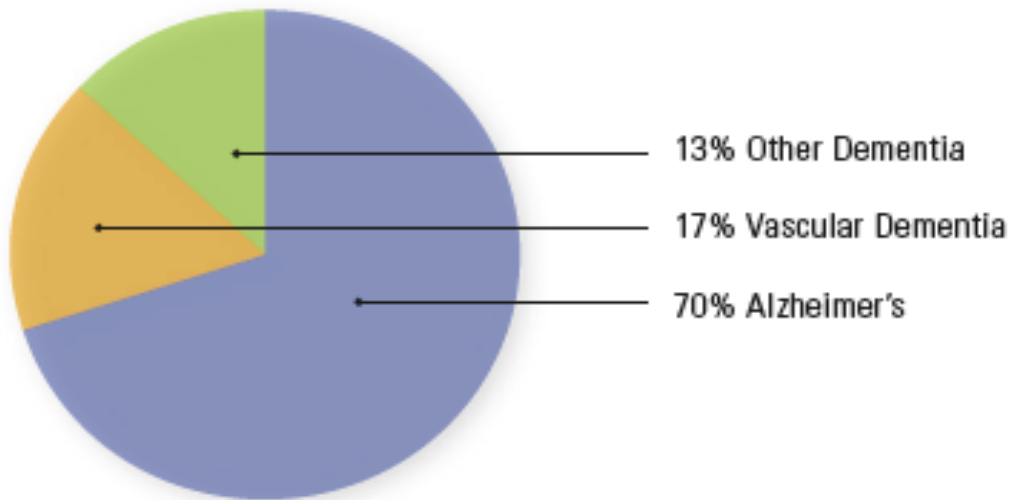
Tumors

Infections

Alcohol, drugs, medication interactions

Irreversible types of dementia

Causes of Dementia in People Aged 71+, ADAMS



Created from data from Plassman et al. ²

- ◆ Alzheimer's disease: the most common type
- ◆ Over 70% of people with dementia have Alzheimer's disease

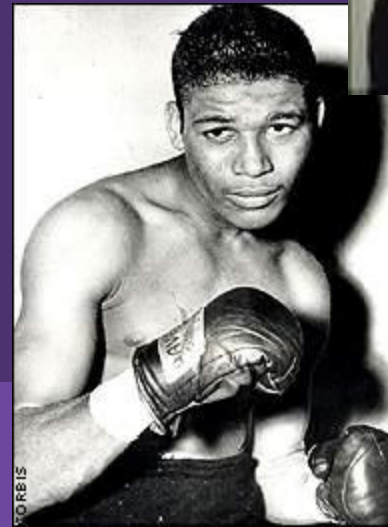
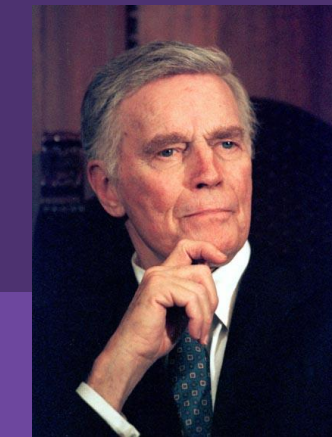
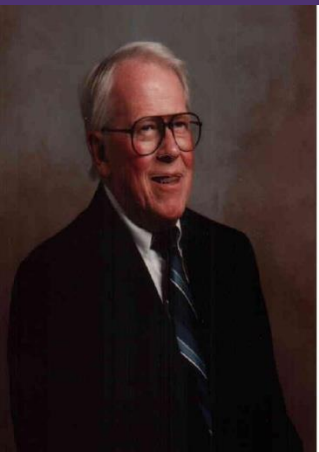
Alzheimer's disease Statistics

- Over 5.2 million persons diagnosed in the United States, will triple by 2050
- 1 in 8 people age 65 and older have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD)
- 1 in 2 people age 85 and older have ADRD
- 10 million baby boomers will develop Alzheimer's in the United States
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 10 men who reach age 55 can expect to develop Alzheimer's in their lifetime.
- Over 199,000 Georgians have ADRD
- Every 70 seconds, someone in the US develops ADRD...mid-century will be every 33 seconds
- 2-3 times the diagnosed # are impacted

Who gets dementia?



Ralph Waldo Emerson





Wandering

- Most common behavior
- 67 % at risk of wandering
- Life-threatening
- Cannot be predicted – it can occur anytime, anyplace by foot, car, public transportation
- If not located within 24 hours, 46 percent of wandering individuals may die
- Average distance is .5 mile

Why people wander

- Restlessness
- Confusion about time
- Change in physical environment (i.e. trying to find “home”)
- Over-stimulation from crowds, noise
- Argument with a caregiver
- Fear caused by a delusion or hallucination



Why people wander? (Continued)

- An inability to communicate basic needs
- Went to the mailbox and could not find way home.
- Looking for a spouse or child because they no longer look familiar
- A desire to meet former obligations that no longer exist

Sundowning

- A behavior that occurs in the late afternoon through early evening
- Leads to unsafe wandering due to:
 - Inability to see well in dim light, causing confusion
 - Inability to cope with stress of the day
 - Caregiver experiences fatigue and stress, which person senses, causing them to be anxious
 - Shadows



MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return®

- **One identification serves 2 purposes:**
 - 1) **Assists in the safe and timely return of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias who wander and become lost**
 - 2) **Provides emergency medical information**
- **National Identification System that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**
- **Cost of Program: \$49.95 one-time and \$25.00 annual membership fee (Grant money available for GA residents)**
 - NEVER a cost if referred by law enforcement/emergency personnel**
- **Person must be enrolled in the program**
- **Over 95 % success rate with MedicAlert + Safe Return**
- **43 % recovery rate without MedicAlert + Safe Return**

MedicAlert + Safe Return Benefits

- **Identification Products**
 - Medical alert bracelet or necklace that states the individual is “Memory-Impaired” with ID # and Safe Return #
- **National Database**
 - Caregiver Information, Medical Conditions, Profile
- **24-hour toll-free crisis line**
- **Fax Notification**
- **Chapter support**
- **Information & training**



How MedicAlert + Safe Return Responds

- **Found Incident**
 - If someone is found in the field on SR
- **Missing Incident**
 - A person is reported missing to you on SR
- **Non-Enrolled Person**
 - Found or Missing person not on SR
 - Found occurs 3x more than a missing incident
 - John/Jane Does

Found Incident

- **What do you do if you find a person (either enrolled or not) and you cannot find the family or identify the person?**
 - **Contact the Alzheimer's Association for assistance**
 - **Emergency Room for evaluation**
 - **Adult Protective Services 1-888-774-0152, emergency money available for temporary placement**
 - **Utilize Secured Assisted Living Facility**

MedicAlert + Safe Return Crisis Line

- Toll free number available 24/7

Program # in your cell phones

- **1-800-572-1122**



Recognizing Alzheimer's disease

- **Identification clues**
 - Identification jewelry, clothing tags, driver's license (usually very few if any)
- **Physical clues**
 - Blank facial expressions, Inappropriate Clothing, Age, Unsteady Gait
- **Psychological clues**
 - Short-term memory loss, confusion, communication problems, Delusions & hallucinations, Agitation, catastrophic reaction

Frequently Encountered Situations

- Wandering
- Driving
- False Reports
- Victimization
- Shoplifting
- Indecent Exposure
- Homicide and Suicide
- Abuse and Neglect

How to interact with a person with Alzheimer's disease

1. Approach from the front, introduce yourself and explain why you're there
2. Keep the individual away from crowds & noise
3. Establish one-on-one conversation and maintain eye contact
4. Speak slowly and calmly
5. Maintain a calm and supportive environment
6. Avoid correcting or "reality checks"
7. Ask "yes" or "no" questions

How to interact with a person with Alzheimer's disease (cont)

8. Keep instructions positive (don't use don't 😊)
9. Ask one question at a time, if necessary repeat question using same exact wording
10. Substitute non-verbal for verbal communication
11. Avoid shouting, loudness can convey anger
12. If you know the person is a Veteran, salute as you approach them.
13. Turn down/off radios and sirens
14. If necessary, use another person to communicate



Responding to incidents involving Missing Persons

- 1. Take Action immediately**
 - Person is considered “Endangered Missing”
 - Emergency Situation (may have other health issues in addition to memory impairment)
- 2. Initiate Search**
 - SAR dogs
 - Search heavy briars, bushes and ditches
 - Behind Sheds, in garages
- 3. Enter a report to NCIC**
 - 1. Classify as having a disability (MKE:EMD)**
- 4. BOLO Bulletin**
- 5. Issue a Mattie’s Call**
- 6. Call the Alzheimer’s Association for assistance**

Mattie's Call

- A formal protocol notifying Law Enforcement Agencies, Emergency Management and the Media to issue an urgent bulletin regarding a Missing Person with Alzheimer's, Dementia or any other cognitively disabling conditions.
- Similar to Levi's Call & Amber Alert
 - Not through the EAS
 - Urgent Bulletin
- How Mattie's call was developed



Alpha Team K9 Search & Rescue, Inc.

- All-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization
- Provides resources & personnel to the search & rescue & emergency response community
- Air scent, trailing, cadaver dogs available
- Urban, building and water searches and man tracking
- Must be coordinated through the police
- Available 24/7 at no cost





Alpha Team K9 Search and Rescue, Inc. Cont.

- **ATSAR maintains a group of highly trained volunteers available to deploy year round in all types of weather, and conditions.**
- **All members are qualified in day and nighttime navigation, radio operations, first aid, CPR, ground search operations, and incident command and control.**
- **All operational teams are GEMA, and or NASAR certified as well as ATSAR certified in search and rescue.**
- **ATSAR coordinates with other SAR team from across the United States to rapidly deploy the best qualified, and most appropriate resources to the areas in need.**
- **Visit the website at www.ATSAR.org**

Call to Action

- Look for identification jewelry on person
- Call MedicAlert + Safe Return 1-800-572-1122
- Enter report into NCIC
- Issue a Mattie's Call
- Initiate Search
 - SAR dogs
- CALL, CALL, Call us to assist you and the family in the Safe Return

Alzheimer's Association Core Services

- **MedicAlert + Safe Return**
- **Support Groups**
- **Information and Referral**
 - 24/7 helpline 1-800-272-3900
- **Education**
- **Care Consultation**
- **Vision: a world without Alzheimer's disease**
- **Mission: to eliminate AD through the advancement of research and promotion of brain health, and to enhance care and support for all individuals, their families & caregivers.**

