

Mood Changes in Alzheimer's Disease

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Apathy, depression, and anxiety are some of the most common neuropsychiatric symptoms seen in Alzheimer's disease (AD). These symptoms are important to recognize because they can contribute to patient well-being and can also lead to distress for caregivers.

49%

42%

39%

Anxiety in Alzheimer's Disease:

1. Excessive worry
2. Repetitive reassurance seeking
3. Separation Anxiety

Apathy and Depression in Alzheimer's disease:

Apathy and depression in Alzheimer's disease are distinct disorders with symptoms that frequently overlap. If you suspect apathy and/or depression could be impacting your quality of life, then it is important to speak with your doctor regarding further testing.

Apathy	Depression
Apathy	Depression
Reduced motivation	Persistent sadness or low mood
Loss of initiative	Feelings of guilt or worthlessness
Emotional indifference	Hopelessness
Patient does not necessarily feel distressed	Patient is often distressed
Often "doesn't care"	Often "cares but feels unable to make a positive change"
Medication are rarely beneficial	May benefit from an antidepressant medication

What common neuropsychiatric symptoms might look like in daily life:

Apathy	Depression	Anxiety
"I don't really care what we do today. I would prefer to just sit here on the couch"	"I feel completely worthless, like I am of no use to anyone and just a burden"	"When are you going to come back and visit? You can't just leave me here!"