Stages of Alzheimers

The Stages of Alzheimer's Disease

To better understand how Alzheimer's disease affects the Hypothalamus and other regions of the brain, it's helpful to first have an understanding of the seven primary stages of this progressive disease.

The FAST scale was developed at the New York University Medical Center's Aging and Dementia Research Center.
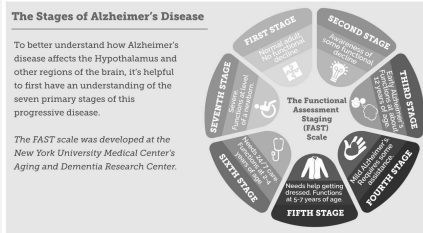
Functional Assessment Staging Tool (FAST). One of the most comprehensive AD staging tools is called the FAST (the Functional Assessment Staging Test), which was developed by Dr. Barry Reisberg. This staging tool provides a clear understanding of the progression of Alzheimer's disease from start to finish.

Assessment

Stage	Question	Yes
1	No difficulties, either subjectively or objectively.	[__}
2	Complains of forgetting location of objects; subjective word finding difficulties only.	[__}
3	Decreased job functioning evident to coworkers; difficulty in traveling to new locations.	[__}
4	Decreased ability to perform complex tasks (e.g., planning dinner for guests; handling finances; marketing).	[__}
5	Requires assistance in choosing proper clothing for the season or occasion.	[__}
6a	Difficulty putting clothing on properly without assistance.	[__}
6b	Unable to bathe properly; may develop fear of bathing. Will usually require assistance adjusting bath water temperature.	[__}
6c	Inability to handle mechanics of toileting (i.e., forgets to flush; doesn't wipe properly).	[__}
6d	Urinary incontinence, occasional or more frequent.	[__}
6e	Fecal incontinence, occasional or more frequent.	[__}
7a	Ability to speak limited to about half a dozen words in an average day.	[__}
7b	Intelligible vocabulary limited to a single word in an average day.	[__}
7c	Nonambulatory (unable to walk without assistance).	[__}
7d	Unable to sit up independently.	[__}
7e	Unable to smile.	[__}
7f	Unable to hold head up.	[__}

Score is highest consecutive level of disability.