

Alzheimer`s Disease Ads

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Alzheimer`s Disease

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Answers by Expert:

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Cindy Keith, RN, BS, Certified Dementia Practitioner

Expertise

As a nurse and dementia consultant, I can answer most questions on all types of dementia. If I cannot answer your question, I will attempt to find someone who can. My passion is to help caregivers of people with dementia, which in turn helps all those wonderful elders with dementia live better lives. When caregivers are better educated, they are able to better care for themselves and their loved ones, so education is key to decreased stress levels and healthier, happier families.

Experience

I have worked as a nurse in various disciplines of nursing for over 20 years, most of which was with the elderly. I was a health care coordinator

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Alzheimer`s Disease / Father sleeps all of the time

Expert: [Cindy Keith, RN, BS, Certified Dementia Practitioner](#) - 3/26/2012

Question

Cindy,

My father is 86 years old and has AD. I would say that he is moving from stage 6 to 7. He can no longer form sentences, cannot recognize anyone, doesn't know where he is and now needs my mom to take care of his personal needs. He can still use the restroom although he doesn't always know what to do after and has been caught playing in his feces. For the last couple of months he has been sleeping most of the day. When he does wake up, mom dresses him, feeds him and gives him meds and he then goes to the couch or chair and goes back to sleep. Yesterday she could not wake him. She tried for hours and finally after shaking and speaking loudly she was able to wake him. This morning, just a few minutes ago, he woke up on his own and got himself dressed. Is this part of the cycle? Am I assuming correctly if I predict one day we will not be able to wake him? Just trying to be prepared so I can better help mom.

Get the answer below

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Study Alzheimer's & its Effects on the Aging Population. Get Brochure. gerontology.usc.edu/alzheimers

Alzheimer Nursing Homes

Find Alzheimer's Care Near You - View Photos, Maps, Reviews, & More. SeniorLivingSource.org/Alzheimers

Assisted Living Pricing

Get Pricing & Service Info on Top 5 Assisted Living Communities by City BestSeniorCareOnline.com

Answer

Hello Linda: I think it's great that you are being proactive in your father's care.

It is quite common for elders with AD to begin to sleep for longer and longer periods of time as the dementia progresses. It's also possible for him to have his good days when he's more alert and responsive, as well as days when he's sleeping most of the 24 hours. If any of these changes are sudden (happening in hours or a day), I would say to have him checked for some type of infection (urinary tract is most common) as that would cause changes.

It's difficult to predict how he will pass on since there could be several things that could happen. He could get a pneumonia--probably from choking on food or liquid, and then he may just slip into a coma. He could fall and break a hip which may necessitate surgery and that would be quite serious. He could have a heart attack or stroke which may cause him to die suddenly. If he dies from the AD, then it would more likely be multi-system shut-down which would probably manifest by him sleeping and then slipping into a coma.

You may wish to have hospice enter his care now to help alleviate the caregiver burden on your mother. They would also help make sure he is comfortable and would be able to predict his death better than you or I.

I wish you luck Linda as you continue to help care for your father. Cindy

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in a dementia dedicated assisted living facility for 4 years before I started my own business (M.I.N.D. in Memory Care) as a dementia consultant six years ago. As a dementia consultant, I help families nationwide through phone conference calls as they struggle to care for their loved ones with dementia.

Organizations

Alzheimer's Foundation of America Geriatric Interest Network Sigma Theta Tau International

Publications

Published "Love, Laughter, & Mayhem - Caregiver Survival Manual For Living With A Person With Dementia" which is a collection of stories about people with dementia I have known, loved and worked with. Every story has a lesson to teach and this book gently teaches family caregivers lessons about how to better care for their loved one, as well as themselves during their caregiving journey.

Published "Love, Laughter, & Mayhem In Eldercare Facilities: The Master Key For Dementia Training" Created "Bringing Nurturing To Memory Care" staff dementia training video Created Ebook: "Hair Stylist's Helpful Tips For Working With People With Alzheimer's & Other Dementias"

Education/Credentials

Registered Nurse with Bachelor's degree in Nursing; Certified Dementia Practitioner; Author of 2 books and an ebook

Awards and Honors

Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society of Nursing

Questioner's Rating

Rating(1-10)	Knowledgeability = 10	Clarity of Response = 10	Politeness = 10
Comment	Thank you for your quick response and the information. I didn't think about Hospice so thanks for the info.		

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