

**PSP** = Progressive Supranuclear Palsy

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# Four Truths of Dementia with Teepa Snow's **Snow Approach**

- Your brain and body will not work the way they used to; abilities are changing, but you will still have abilities.
- It is a new normal; we can't go back to how it was before, but we can adapt.
- It's not going to stay stable and yet, change can be dealt with with the right support.
- Getting support that works is essential, especially as things continue to change.

#### **Alzheimer**

- New details lost first
- Recent memory worse
- Some language problems, misspeaks
- More impulsive or indecisive
- Gets lost time/place
- Several forms and patterns
- Young onset can vary from late life onset
- Down Syndrome is high risk
- Notice changes over time
- Related to beta-amyloid plaques and tau pathologies

### **Lewy Body**

- Movement problems and falls
- Visual disturbances
- Delusional thinking
- Fine motor problems hands and swallowing
- Episodes of rigidity and syncope
- Insomnia sleep disturbances
- Nightmares that seem real
- Fluctuations in abilities
- Drug responses can be extreme and strange
- Related to synuclein protein malformations

#### Vascular

- Sudden changes in ability – some recovery
- Symptom combinations are highly variable
- Can have bounce back and bad days
- Judgment and behavior not the same
- Spotty losses
- Emotional and energy shifts
- Least predictable
- Caused by problems with blood flow, oxygen, nourishment of brain cells

## **Frontotemporal**

- Many types
- Frontal: impulse and behavior control changes
  - Says unexpected, rude, mean, odd things
  - Apathy not caring
  - Problems with initiation or sequencing
  - Disinhibited: sex, food, drink, emotions, actions
- Temporal: language change
  - Difficulty with speaking missing/changing words
  - Rhythm OK, content missing
  - Not getting messages
- Related to tau pathologies

