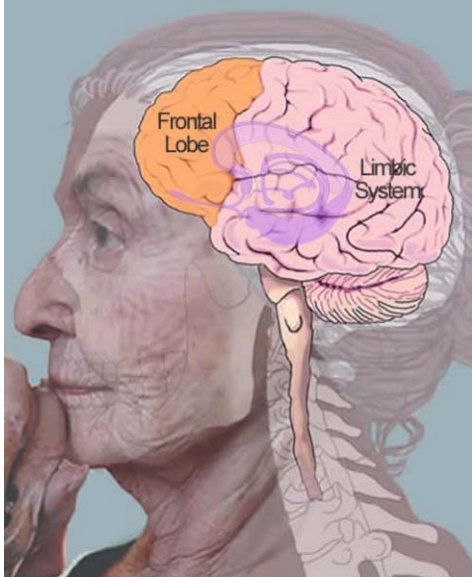


The 7 A's of Dementia

7. Apathy: Loss of Initiation



Deficits:

- Inability to initiate activities or conversation
- Often interpreted as a sign of depression
- A loss only of the ability to initiate – usually able to participate if engaged by caregiver

Associated Behaviours:

- Sits in front of a meal without touching it until a care provider initiates the activity
- Spends most of the day in silence, chin on chest, without initiating conversation. However, when approached and called by name, can lift head, make eye contact, smile, and possibly converse.

Effective Care Strategies for Apathy

- Initiate an activity (e.g. eating) by using verbal cues or hand-over-hand technique. This may be sufficient to enable the person to complete the task or activity independently.