Key Words

- Dementia of the Alzheimer’s type
- Memory Loss
- Safety & Supervision
Alzheimer's disease is a progressive form of dementia that causes an impairment of intellectual functioning.
Patients have difficulties with decision making, judgment, attention span, memory loss, swallowing, speaking & recognizing close family members.
ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

Early in the disease process, patients present deficits in executive functioning: such as performing tasks involving multiple steps like balancing a checkbook or preparing a meal.
ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

- Some individuals show personality changes or increased irritability.
- In the middle and later stages psychotic symptoms are common.
Patients tend to develop incontinence, gait and motor disturbances, eventually becoming mute and bedridden.
SYMPTOMS

- Frontal Lobe: Irrational
- Parietal Lobe: Disoriented
- Occipital: Can't recognize people/objects
- Brain Stem: Sleep-Disturbed
- Temporal Lobe: Tongue-Tied
- Hippocampus: Forgetful
- Amygdala: Moody
Art Therapy

- Fosters social interaction
- Cognition
- Creative expression
PRESENTING PROBLEMS

- Decreased attention span
- Increased wandering & agitation
• Uses creative expression as a source of growth and sustenance

• Is a “language of communication”
Art Therapy

Helps those who are unable to express their thoughts with words via creative expression through art
Art Therapy

A process which fosters attention, spontaneity and originality of expression
ART THERAPY ACTIVITIES

- Foam sculpture
- Jackson Pollack
ART THERAPY ACTIVITIES

- Paper Mache' Bracelets
- Decorating Bracelets
ART THERAPY ACTIVITIES

- ‘Mandala’ Painting
- ILAC Cards
ART THERAPY ACTIVITIES

- Travel Collage
- Color Experiments
ART THERAPY ACTIVITIES

- Stamp Painting
- Painting Shells
Art Therapy Activities

- Art Samples:
  - note the stereotypic scribbles
Art Therapy

- Stimulates active participation
- Facilitates creative expression in people who are nonverbal or have deficits in communication skills
Art Therapy

– Provides the opportunity for experiences
– Motivates learning in all domains of functioning
Art Therapy

– Provides experiences not otherwise available to them

– Creates the opportunity for positive, successful and pleasurable social activity
Art Therapy

– Increases the ability to use energy purposefully, reduces mal-adaptive behaviors

Self Portrait of artist William Utermohlen, an American diagnosed Alzheimer’s in 1995
Art Therapy

- Increases interaction with peers & others

- Increases independence & self-direction
Art Therapy

– Reflects self-image & body awareness
Art Therapy

- Stimulates creativity and imagination
- Fosters memories
Alzheimer’s disease is progressive. Art Therapy helps maintain a sense of dignity, purpose, and self direction through creative expression and socialization.

http://www.alz.org/