

**THEIR COGNITIVE CAPACITY AND JUDGEMENT ALLOWS MOST ALS PATIENTS TO
MAKE VALID LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS THAT SHOULD BE RESPECTED**

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The overlap of Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) and ALS has been well documented in FTD patients with co-morbid motor neuron degeneration and in ALS patients with frontotemporal dysfunction. Up to 15% of FTD patients and 30% of ALS patients experience the overlap syndrome. The syndrome may be difficult to identify since patients often present either to a neuromuscular clinic or a memory disorder's center, each which may have limited expertise in the other specialty. Survival is greatly impacted for both disorders in the co-morbid condition, making identification of this syndrome critical. The clinical characteristics of the overlap syndrome with diagnostic criteria will be discussed along with screening strategies, including the UCSF Screening battery and clinical neurophysiology techniques. Treatable mimics of this disorder will also be described and management techniques. Neuroimaging findings will be summarized, which show that the frontotemporal impairment in ALS patients lies on a continuum. Even in mild cases, judgment is impacted, making it difficult to know if the decisions made by patients with ALS are valid without formal testing to determine their cognitive status.