

Is dementia a psychiatric or neurological disease – different angles of the same illness – a psychiatrist's view

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Objectives: Dementias are illnesses with well known neuropathology but it is not only “an illness”, it is a change in one's experience of surroundings, processing of information, understanding and comprehending of feelings and emotions. **Neurology and psychiatry** offer different angles of understanding patients suffering from dementia. **Methods:** The author based on personal experience discusses different angles of medical understanding of dementia and consequent differences in therapeutic approaches. In the context of the long historical relationship between neurology and psychiatry, the increased awareness of the complexity of the nervous system, the rapid emergence and advancements of neuroscience over last two decades, the author analyses what makes dementia a psychiatric or a neurological disorder and how both neurology and psychiatry can collaborate to improve outcomes of treatment in major neurocognitive disturbances. **Conclusion:** The author concludes that psychiatry offers unique opportunity to integrate patients' experiences into evidence based physical, medicine. By unique focus on human emotions and behavior in health and disease, acknowledging the overlap between neuronal disturbances and psychological distress, psychiatry offers the enhancing of well- being and treatment beyond the use of pharmacological drugs.