

Do you recognise pain in someone with a learning difficulty and dementia?



Someone with a learning difficulty and dementia may not be able to tell you they are in pain.

Their pain is often ignored, not noticed, or mistaken for challenging behaviour. Recognising and treating this pain can vastly improve their lives and the lives of those around them.

For more information including a factsheet, a guide for GPs and a guide for frontline staff, go to: www.jrf.org.uk/dementia/

For the full report, *Responding to the pain experiences of people with a learning difficulty and dementia* by Diana Kerr, Colm Cunningham and Heather Wilkinson, go to: www.jrf.org.uk/painexperiences/

Signs that someone is in pain

- Shouting
- Pacing
- Being withdrawn
- Hitting out
- Night-time disturbance
- Problems eating
- Screaming
- Crying
- Aggression
- Confusion

Common causes of pain

- Musculoskeletal disease
- Dental problems
- Impacted earwax
- Eye infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Constipation

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