



**Think dementia is what happens when you get old?**  
**Think again. This strikes when you are in your prime.**

PDSG is a UK based charity, which was established 16 years ago to meet the needs of those who care for people with fronto-temporal dementias (which includes Picks Disease). What differentiates these dementias from others is that *they commonly affect people of working age*. They may be dismissed from work or lose their business before they have a diagnosis.

The disease is difficult to diagnose because the sufferer is not only younger than expected for dementia but displays different symptoms which may not lead to a correct diagnosis. The carer may be dealing with *difficult and strange behaviour* as the frontal lobe is affected, but may find little sympathy or understanding from doctors, family or friends.

Diagnosis takes up to three years and although there is progressive deterioration leading to death, *there is no treatment*.

Partners often combine raising a family with earning the income as well as caring. They and their children may be dealing with anti-social behaviour, aggression and incontinence in the home. Often the affected person may spend profligately and deprive them of family finances.

There are *few facilities* to deal with younger people with dementia and support is often scarce. The sufferer does not 'fit' into the usual day-centres or group facilities and there is little respite for the carer.

**We are seeking to raise awareness of fronto-temporal dementias and thereby to increase support for those affected by:**

- **Increasing awareness of health service providers.** Of particular concern is the need for early and accurate diagnosis.
- **Highlighting the need for specialist provision.** It needs to reflect the younger age-group affected by FTD and to be flexible in supporting them and their families.
- **Addressing the unique and particular financial implications** of such a diagnosis.
- **Providing support groups.** These are invaluable in providing peer support and specialist experience together for carers.

Please use this information to raise awareness of fronto temporal dementia.

If your organisation would like more information, please contact [jill@pdsg.org.uk](mailto:jill@pdsg.org.uk).

Alternatively, telephone Jill Walton on 07592 540 555.

Visit us at [www.pdsg.org.uk](http://www.pdsg.org.uk)

**Thank you for your help.**