

Cognition

Changes to thinking and behaviour

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“Listen to carers when monitoring for change. For example, if a carer says, “My partner is different, he just doesn’t love me anymore” this may well be a change in the relationship since diagnosis, but it could also indicate something deeper in terms of behaviour and lack of empathy.”

A carer whose husband had MND-FTD

Changes to thinking and behaviour

- 50% of people with MND will experience mild cognitive change
- Of these, a further 5 to 10% will develop frontotemporal dementia (FTD)



Changes - thinking

- **Executive functioning**
- Language
- Memory
- Perception
- Social cognition

A large, bold, dark blue '50%' is centered within a white square that has an orange border. The text has a subtle reflection effect below it.

50%

Changes - behaviour

- Egocentrism
- Loss of interest
- Apathy
- Irritability
- Absence of insight into these changes



50%

Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) - cognitive

- Marked executive dysfunction
- Change in expressive language
- Change in receptive language
- Memory difficulties



Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) - behavioural

- Significant personality change
- Disinhibition and impulsivity
- Perseveration
- Changes in eating behaviour
- Loss of emotional understanding
- Withdrawal
- Stereotyped or ritualistic behaviour



Monitoring change

- Timely assessment and referral
- The Edinburgh Cognitive and Behavioural ALS Screen (ECAS) tool
- MiND-B
- M-ACE



Further Information

- ECAS tool – <http://hdl.handle.net/1842/6592>
- [Cognitive change, frontotemporal dementia and MND](#). MND Association
- RCN Annual Hawking lecture 2018 www.rcnevents.tv
- [Patient information MND Association](#)

