

Memory decline may be earliest sign of dementia

July 17 2013, by Marilyn Marchione

(AP)—Memory problems that are often dismissed as a normal part of aging may not be so harmless after all.

Several research teams are reporting that noticing you have a decline in memory beyond the occasional misplaced car keys or forgotten name could be the very earliest sign of Alzheimer's.

One study found that complaining of a [memory decline](#) preceded wider mental impairment by about six years. Another tied those changes to evidence of dementia on brain scans.

The research involves [memory lapses](#) that are more pronounced than a mere "senior moment." These are bigger problems, such as getting lost while driving home.

The studies were discussed Wednesday at the Alzheimer's Association conference in Boston.

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Memory decline may be earliest sign of dementia (2013, July 17) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-07-memory-decline-earliest-dementia.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--