

STAGE ZERO



A Support Group for Prodromal Alzheimer's Disease

Pacific Neuroscience Medical Group and the Alzheimer's Association Ventura County Regional Office announce "Stage Zero," a new support group for persons with prodromal Alzheimer's disease.

Prodromal Alzheimer's disease can now be diagnosed as the result of recent advances in medical science. Those living with prodromal Alzheimer's have mild cognitive changes as well as imaging, spinal fluid or genetic testing showing they are in the very earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Prodromal Alzheimer's is believed to affect millions of Americans, and although scientific and ethical issues preclude routine testing, a small but rapidly growing number of people are now living with this diagnosis. At times, the diagnosis is the result of participation in an observational or therapeutic clinical research study. Less often, an individual may decide to seek out a definitive diagnosis for personal reasons. This can be because they have a strong risk factor such as mild cognitive impairment or familial Alzheimer's disease.

Challenges for individuals living with prodromal Alzheimer's differ from those faced by persons with mild, moderate or advanced illness. Important issues include long-term financial and life planning, legal planning, eligibility for medical and long-term insurance, coping with psychosocial stress, employment and career decisions, evaluating proven and unproven disease-delaying strategies, patient advocacy, and evaluating the risks and benefits of experimental drug trials.

Until now, prodromal Alzheimer's disease patients haven't had a support group where they can openly discuss these and other issues with others. This new group will for the first time provide a safe environment for sharing experiences, emotions, ideas and knowledge with others dealing with the same questions and challenges.

Stage Zero meets the second Friday of each month, from 1 pm to 3 pm, in the conference room of Pacific Neuroscience Medical Group, 1701 Solar Drive, Suite 140, Oxnard, CA 93030. The group is open to those living with prodromal Alzheimer's disease and their family members, life-partners, loved ones, personal caregivers or others interested in learning more.

Because space is limited, please reserve a seat by calling at 805.278.4148. Light refreshments will be served, and there is no cost to participate.

