Alzheimer's and Parkinson's: Key Differences

Alzheimer's and Parkinson's are neurological disorders that progress over time. While similar in some ways, understanding their differences is important for proper diagnosis and treatment.

	Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. It slowly damages the brain, making it harder to think, remember, and solve problems.	**Parkinson's disease** mainly affects movement by damaging nerve cells in the brain. It can also cause problems with memory and thinking.
Memory problems	✔	✔
Depression	✔	✔
Apathy	✔	✔
Confusion	✔	✔
Swallowing difficulty	✔	✔
Problems with reasoning	✔	✔
Communication difficulties	✔	
Personality changes	✔	
Tremors		✔
Muscle stiffness		✔
Slowed movements		✔
Balance problems		✔
Constipation		✔
Sexual dysfunction		✔
Treatment	• drugs for mood, brain chemicals, and amyloid plaques • therapy and lifestyle changes	• drugs for mood and movement symptoms • deep brain stimulation • therapy and lifestyle changes
Outlook	Most people live for 4 to 8 years after diagnosis.	People can live a regular life span but may become disabled within 10 years.