

# Striking a Balance Part 1:

## Global Deterioration Scale and Retrogenesis

Lost abilities	Alzheimer stage	Approximate duration in AD	Developmental age of patient
Hold a job	3 (incipient)	7 yrs	19-13 yrs (adolescence)
Handle simple finances	4 (mild)	2 yrs	12-8 yrs (late childhood)
Select proper clothing	5 (moderate)	1 1/2 years	7-5 yrs (middle childhood)
Put on clothing unaided Shower unaided Toilet unaided Control urine Control bowels	6a (moderately severe) b c d e	2 1/2 years	5-2 yrs (early childhood)
Speak 5-6 words Speak 1 word Walk Sit up Smile Hold up head	7a (moderately severe) b c d e f	7 yrs	15 months– birth (infancy)

Functional landmarks in normal human development and Alzheimer's disease (Copyright © 1984, 1986, 200 by Barry Reisberg, MD. All rights reserved.) - Please note this is a portion of the full table. Full version printed in the *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias*, Volume 17, Number 4, July/August 2002

## Keys to the stages and Retrogenesis

1. Stages: a) moving up and down dependent on many variables, person can "improve" when visitors come, person can fluctuate from day to day
2. Retrogenesis: a simpler term - "reverse development"; *caveats*: "intellectual convenience" - cannot use to "baby" persons with dementia
3. See handout for full table and more about the stages
4. Assessment: Reisberg created two tools - a) Functional Assessment Staging Tool