

### 3-25 Cognitive enhancer for what type of dementia

**TIPS Question:**

Are cognitive enhancers clinically effective for residents with secondary dementias (i.e. vascular dementia)? Can residents have concurrent primary dementia (i.e. Alzheimer Disease) and secondary dementia and would the cognitive enhancer be prescribed because of the primary dementia?

**What are the significant factors you have learned as a result of working through the six-question template?**

- A workable framework to identify and think through in an orderly way identification & acknowledgement of a behaviour – that it has meaning
- To identify possible causes and to plan more effective strategies of care individual to that to that behaviour
- It is significantly important to communicate the above to partners in care

**Response:**

When the cholinesterase inhibitors were first available, they were prescribed only in mild to moderate Alzheimer Disease.

Over the past couple of years this became fairly broadened to include Mixed dementia of Alzheimer's and vascular dementia as well as vascular dementia alone. There are currently data to support their use in vascular dementia and mixed dementia at the present time.

**Please note:** TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.