

My name is Lee, and I was diagnosed with bvFTD early in 2010. I knew something was wrong for a few months, but I just couldn't quite put my finger on it.

I was working at an international market research company. My position - the equivalent of an operations manager for North America - was very technical, and very demanding.

My attitude at work had become atrocious. I went in late, and left early. I just didn't want to do anything. I was routinely sticking post-it notes on my computer screen so I would know what I wanted to do the next day. In retrospect this was as much to remember what to do as it was to serve as a to-do list so I would actually do it.

I found it difficult to complete my job duties, and would surf the web for hours at a time. I set easy goals such as, "Write at least 10 new SQL statements today" or "Answer an email." I could only do one thing at a time.

I was having some obvious memory problems, but everyone just chalked it all up to stress. I hated to answer emails, and shuddered every time the phone rang. I did not want to have contact with anyone. Of course all of this seemed natural to me at the time, but nonetheless it troubled me.

Around the end of January 2010 it all happened at once. I broke up with my girlfriend in a huge fit of uncontrolled rage. My boss was coming into town the next week for my annual review. I was noticing more memory issues. I had a very strong feeling that something was very wrong. I had all the symptoms of depression except I was not depressed. I couldn't think sometimes. I began to suspect I had Alzheimer's or something.

When a colleague came to me to get a copy of a computer program I had written a year or so before I knew I was in big trouble. When I looked at the code I had written I couldn't understand it. I clearly remembered writing it from scratch in about 20 minutes. It had been brilliant in its simplicity. Now it had become too brilliant for me. I WAS SCARED!

I called and made an appointment to see a Neurologist. I was diagnosed with Behavioral Variant Frontotemporal Dementia a few weeks later after many tests and doctor visits.

At one time I was president of a small publishing company. I edited, and wrote many books. I was a contributor to several magazines, and a few newsletters. Though my writing is much more simplistic, and it is more difficult to plan and compose an article, I am still able to write.

Writing about my disease has helped me to understand the changes that have, and continue, to occur. My hope is that a first-hand account of what is happening to me may somehow help others. When I researched bvFTD most of what I found was written for and by caregivers. For obvious reasons there is very little written from the perspective of those afflicted.

I realize I am in the early stages of this horrible disease, and cannot tell how much longer I will be capable of writing. I am trying to document as much as I can while I still can. I have started a blog to share my perspective with others. Though it is for my own benefit it may prove useful for others to know we are not alone.

Every case of FTD is different. This is my story.

My Personal Account of Behavior Variant Frontotemporal Dementia - bvFTD can be found at:

<http://bvftd.blogspot.com/>