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**Version of item:** Presented version

# An investigation into the changes in intimacy in long-term relationships when one partner has dementia

Jane Youell – April 2009

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# How and why

- Carers
- 6 participants
- Semi structured interviews
- Thematic analysis

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# Themes

- Everydayness
- Absent presence
- Ever decreasing circles
- I don't know if you want to know this.....

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# I don't know if you want to know this...

- *Edward was always very, well, yeah, you know, quite highly sexed I suppose you'd say, sort of, I mean take it or leave it, its just for men, what's really strange is that he still, he still feels he wants that, which is really strange I find (Anne)*
- *And how do you feel about that? (Interviewer)*
- *Well...its...I don't like it, it doesn't seem to be him....its... its I feel really si....it's horrible, and that's an awful thing to say after a lot of years (Anne)*
- *And then I, its really funny because you're battling with yourself, and I'm thinking he hasn't got a lot; he hasn't got a lot going for him, and if it pleases him and it gives him...and if he thinks he's doing what he's doing, you know, I've gotta go with it, I've gotta do it (Anne)*

# I don't know if you want to know this...

- But then your doctor and the psychiatrists advise you to give the person with Alzheimer's medication which will, you can't stop it progressing but instead of it progressing quickly it progresses slowly but the medication affects their personality and it makes them impotent (Pauline)
- And [sex] it's just very difficult, you try and help but nothing helps and you know, they just end up apologising and, you know, you say it's not a problem, you know, forget it, you know, move on but it's very difficult, quite hard to live with (Pauline)

I don't know if you want to know  
this...

- Our sex life, this is what we're getting to ain't it, just went down the drain absolutely, um, there was no closeness (Connie)
- I suppose it was gradual but I didn't really realise at the time what was happening (Connie)

# Outcomes

- Primary Care Trust Research & Development Team
- Older Peoples Mental Health team
- PhD

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