

TOMÁS LEÓN

THEY CHANGED my grandma



Illustrations by POLA HOFFMANN


AZAFRÁN
EDITORIAL



They changed my grandma

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@editorialazafran

Author: Tomás León

Illustrations: Pola Hoffmann

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This is the story of how my grandma was changed to me. It's true, but no one believes me.

It started one day when I was in school, and my dad came to pick me up tell me that grandma had something like a 'soak'.





Dad picked me up from school, and during the trip home, I thought that it must have been a huge accident and that we would find the house flooded. We'd be mopping up for days!

When I arrived, I was surprised to see that the apartment was clean and dry. Nothing had spilled anywhere.

I walked around the house, but grandma was nowhere to be found.



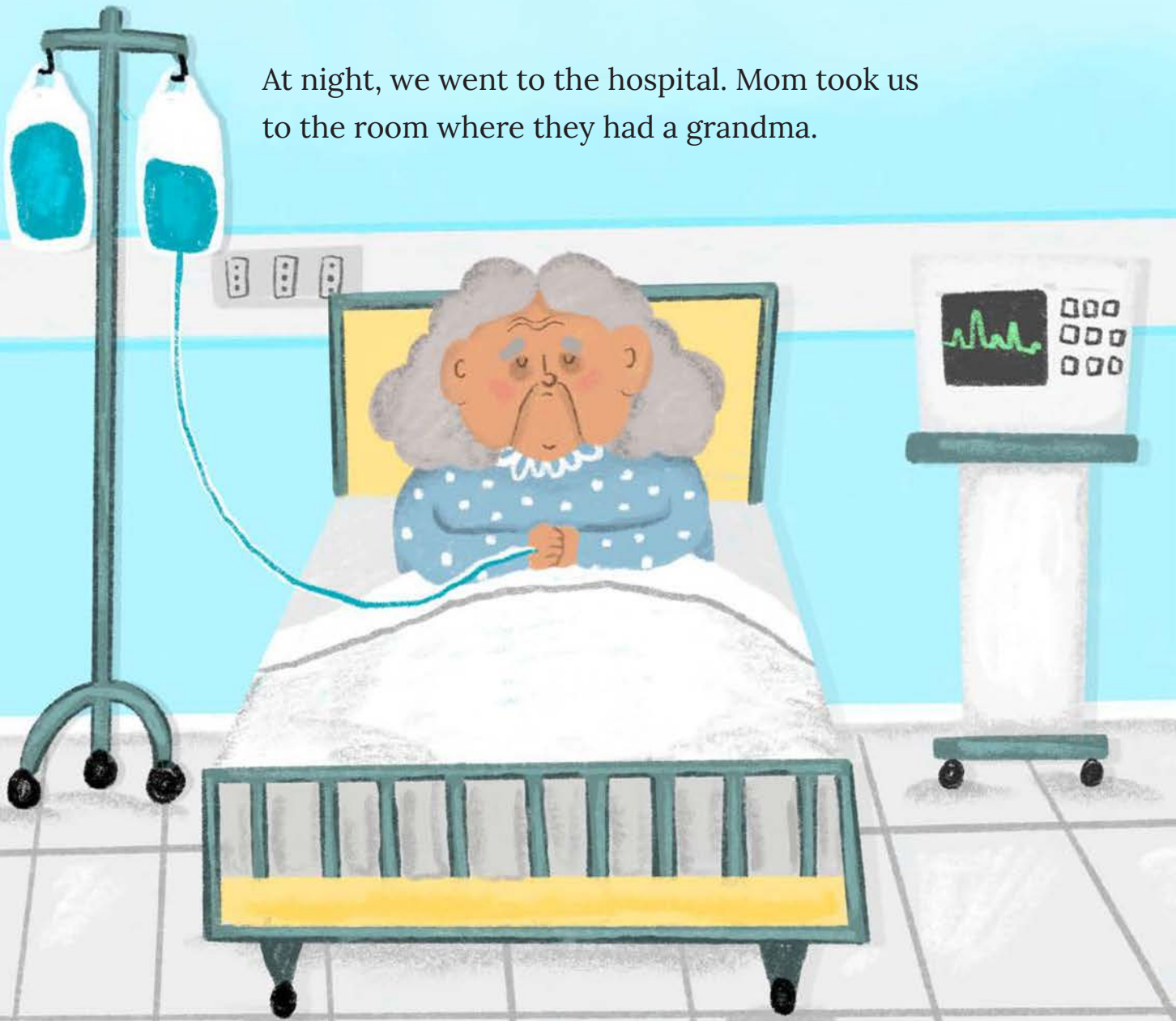
“Where is grandma?” I asked Dad, worried.

“Mom took her to the hospital. We will wait for you here.”


Hours passed, and they did not return.



At night, we went to the hospital. Mom took us to the room where they had a grandma.



Her appearance was shocking. It scared me to see her hooked up to all those tubes and machines, and she looked like she was sleeping, but when I squeezed her hand and called her name loudly, she didn't wake up.



After a while, she returned home, or at least that's
what they wanted me to believe.

I know the truth. They sent someone who is not my
grandma; she is an imposter.

They sent me a replacement grandma



The grandma who returned was different. Not only did she have her mouth on one side, like the man who makes the little dolls talk on TV, but she also spoke little and slowly. She no longer wanted to play, she walked strangely, she was constantly distracted and even got lost inside the house, and she forgot things.

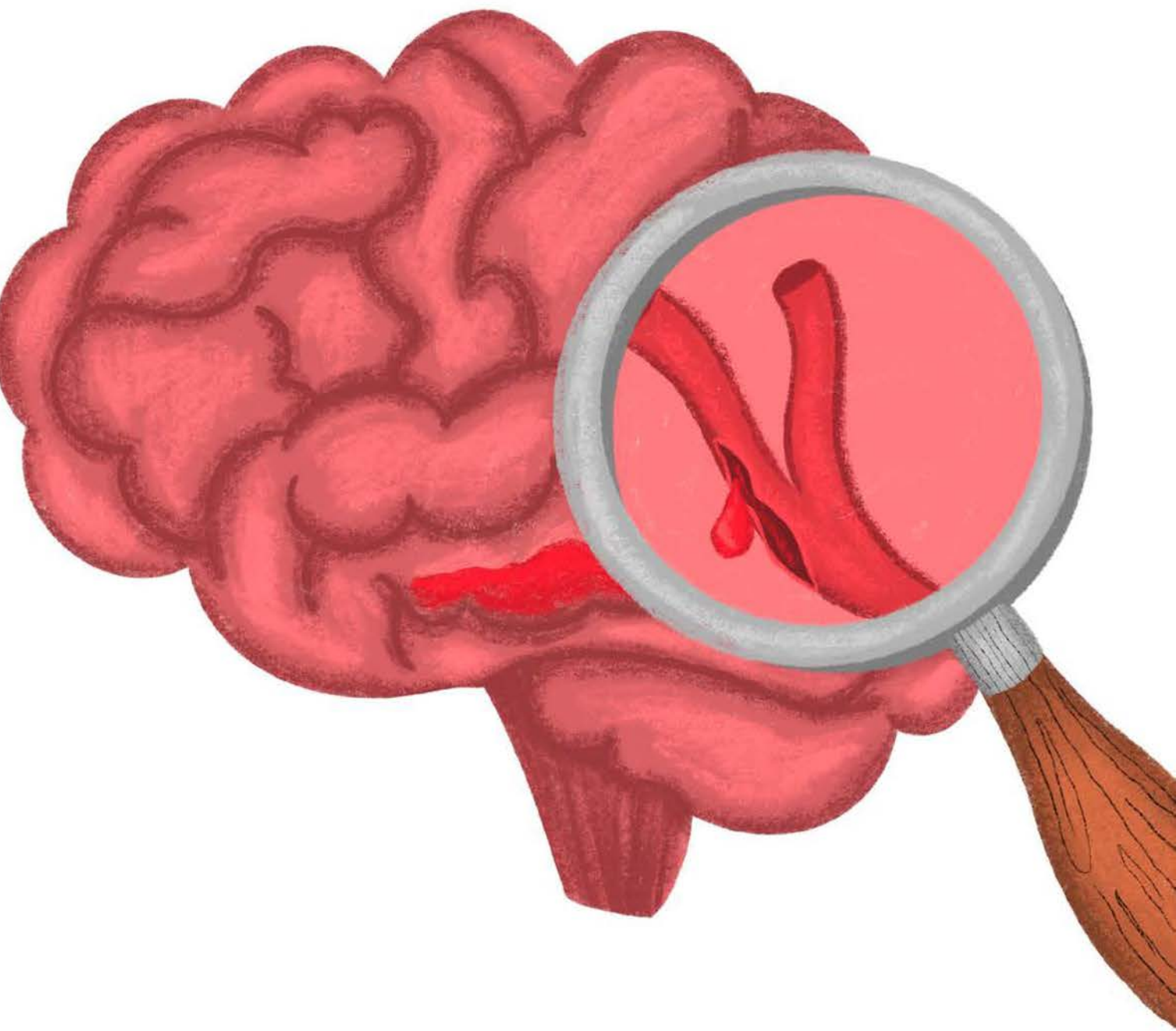
My mom said it was because of the stroke.

"I don't understand what is happening, did her head get soaked with something? I yelled, frustrated.

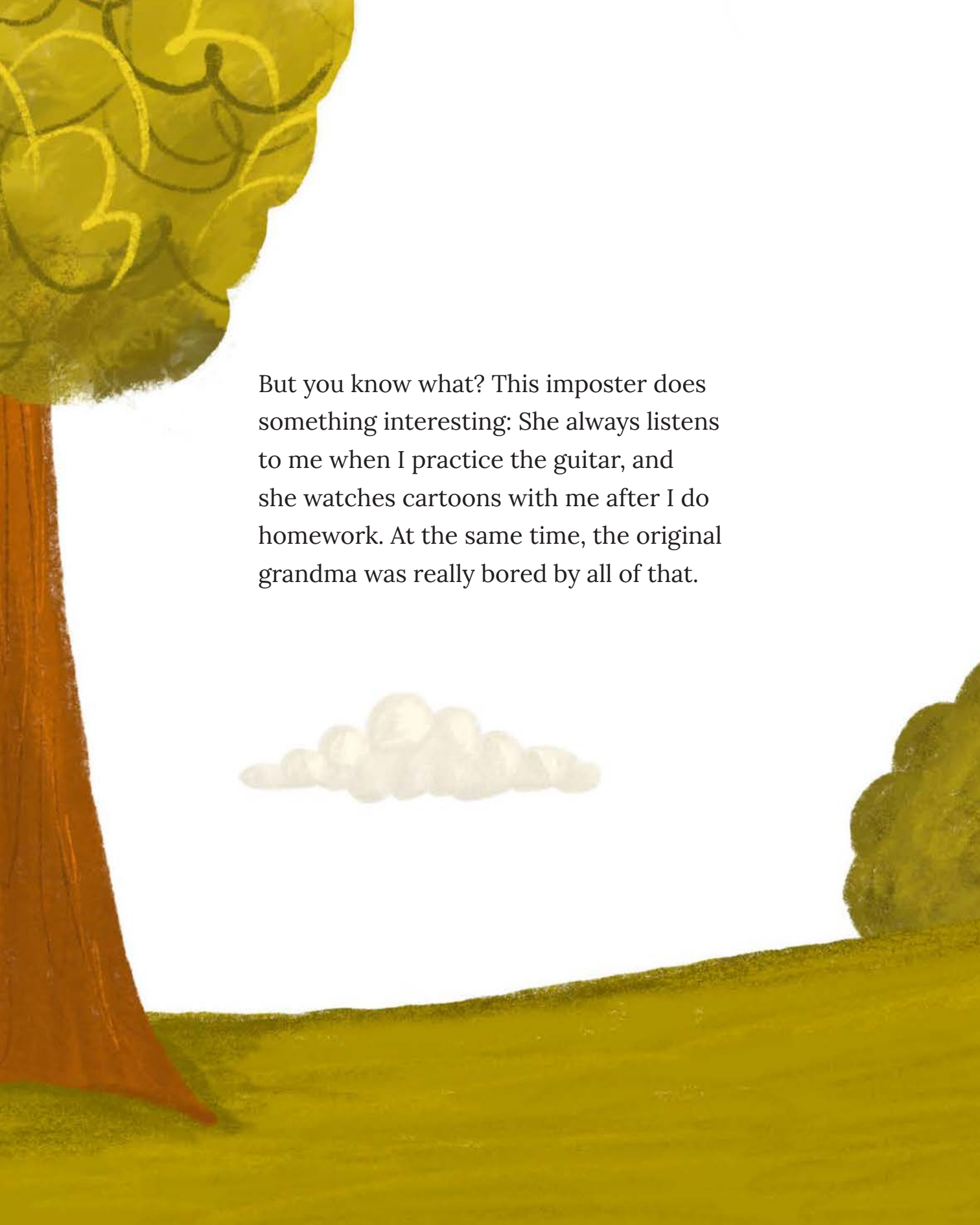
"We haven't explained it to you well, have we?" she replied sadly.

"No," I answered with tears in my eyes.





“Grandma had a stroke, not a soak, what happened to grandma is that a vein in her brain broke, and the blood couldn’t reach everywhere, so that part of the brain was left without food and oxygen, and it was damaged,” was the simple Mom’s explanation. But the truth is that I still have my suspicions.



But you know what? This imposter does something interesting: She always listens to me when I practice the guitar, and she watches cartoons with me after I do homework. At the same time, the original grandma was really bored by all of that.



Over time, I grew fond of the new grandma. Now we spend a lot of time together. She is an excellent listener and is always there when I need her.

Also, some days, she is better; she smiles at me from the side and calls me “my girl.” In the end, I now have two Grandma s who love me.

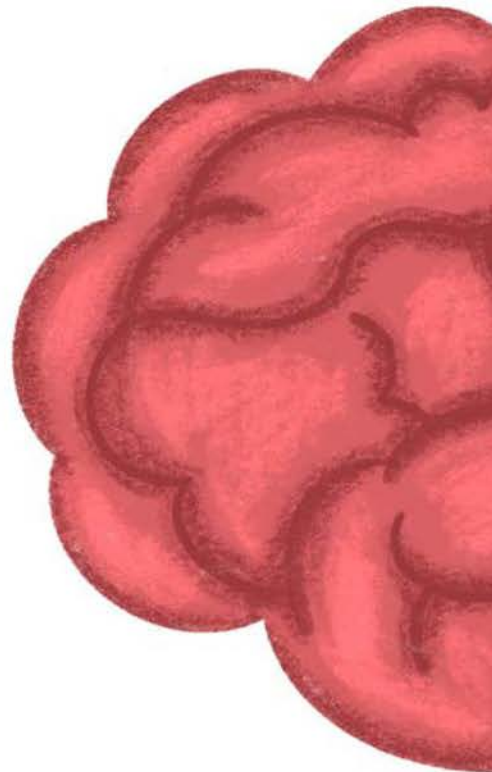


What is dementia?

Dementia is a group of illness that make things start to go wrong in the brain. People with dementia have trouble with their memory, can't always focus and struggle to plan for the future. These problems can become so bad that the person can no longer live on their own. Dementia can be caused by lots of different illnesses, but most of them are incurable and slowly get worse over time.

Dementia is more common among older people, like your grandparents, but young people can also be affected.

The most important thing is to try to prevent dementia by having a healthy lifestyle, doing lots of activities with other children and exercising your brain by learning.

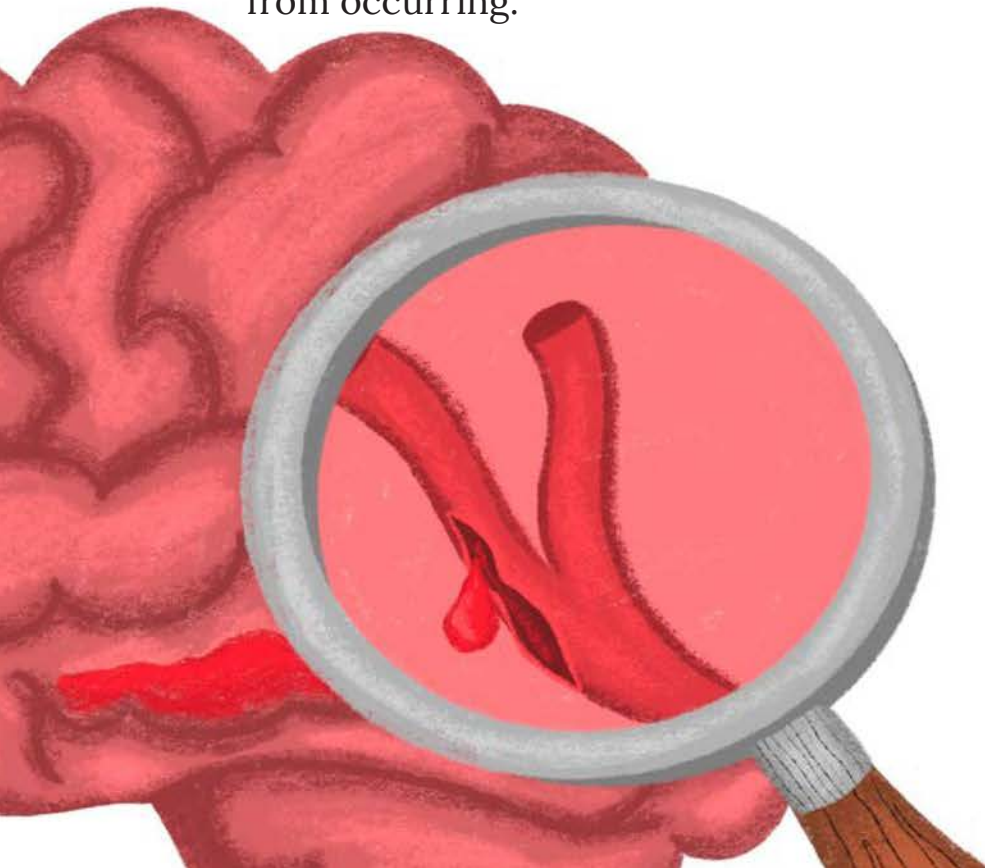


vascular dementia

Vascular dementia occurs due to a “cerebrovascular accident,” commonly called a brain “stroke.” This happens when an artery that brings oxygen and food to brain areas becomes clogged, losing that part of the brain.

The brain then does not function well since some areas are missing. This can cause problems such as forgetting, getting lost on the street, getting angry quickly, and others.

While some parts of the brain are damaged, others are intact and try to compensate for the affected areas. The most important thing is to prevent further brain damage from occurring.





My grandma had changed. Something happened to her Brain. It was now different! She is a different grandma, but no one believes me. I must find out what happened to her. Can you help me find out?

They changed my grandma! is part of a collection of books that deal with dementia and seeks to accompany boys and girls whose grandparents suffer from this disease. This is the fourth volume, and it is about vascular dementia.

