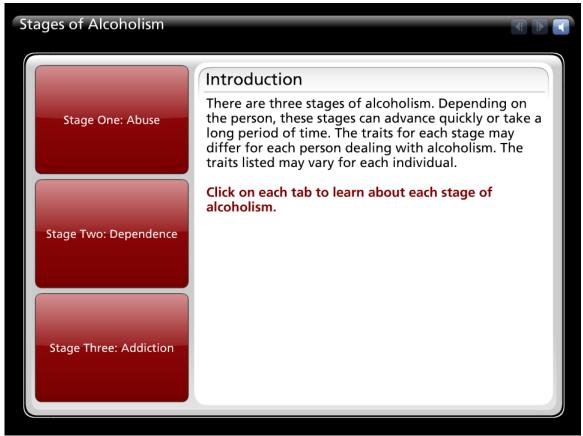
Introduction



There are three stages of alcoholism. Depending on the person, these stages can advance quickly or take a long period of time. The traits for each stage may differ for each person dealing with alcoholism.

Click on each tab to learn about the stages of alcoholism.



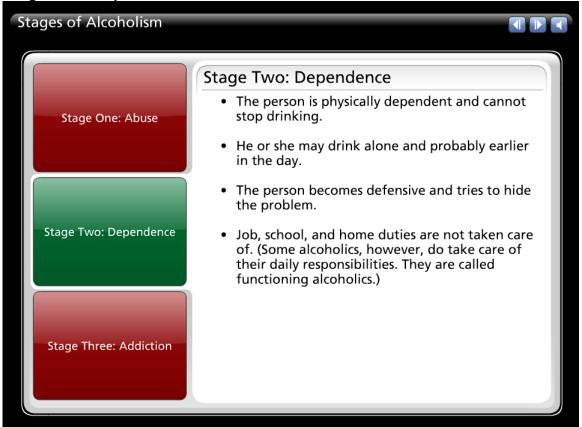
Stage One: Abuse



- Drinking becomes less social and is necessary to manage stress.
- Physical and psychological dependence develops.
- The person is regularly intoxicated.
- Memory loss and blackouts are frequent.
- The drinker tries to rationalize his or her drinking behavior.



Stage Two: Dependence



- The person is physically dependent and cannot stop drinking.
- He or she may drink alone and probably earlier in the day.
- The person becomes defensive and tries to hide the problem.
- Job, school, and home duties are not taken care of. (Some alcoholics, however, do take care of their daily responsibilities. They are called functioning alcoholics.)



Stage Three: Addiction



- Drinking becomes the MOST important thing. Every part of the alcoholic's life revolves around drinking.
- Drinking is uncontrollable and is constant.
- Drinkers may become malnourished because they do not care about nutrition.
- People can never be cured of alcoholism once they are addicted. A treatment program is needed to help control and stop drinking.

