Alzheimer's Disease

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What is Alzheimer's Disease

Summary

Progressive loss of memory and ability to perform common tasks ultimately leading to death (20-30 years), common cause of dementia.

PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS:

Difficulty with language
Disorientation
Loss of bodily functions

MENTAL SYMPTOMS:

Mood Changes
Loss of Motivation

Summar y

Progressive loss of memory and ability to perform common tasks ultimately leading to death (20-30 years), common cause of dementia.

Types of Alzheimer’s Disease

FAMILIAL
Less than 1% of Alzheimer’s Diagnoses
Caus ed by Genetic Mutations
Normal onset—Older than 55

SPORADIC
99% of Alzheimer’s Diagnoses
Unknown cause
Normal onset—Older than 65

Pathology

Primarily starts in the cerebral cortex and hippocampus and progresses to other areas.

Extracellular plaques of fibrillary β surrounded by degenerating neurites

- There are at least three major plaque types
  - Normal variants / mature forms, immature forms
  - Other types as well

Intracellular plaque of neurofibrillary tangles of hyperphosphorylated tau

Pathology is indistinguishable
Comparison of a normal aged brain (left) and the brain of a person with Alzheimer’s (right). Characteristics that separate the two are pointed out.

Questions?

Bibliography

