

# Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease

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[www.tmdf.org](http://www.tmdf.org)



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# Disclosures

- Research support:
  - Biogen, Novonordisk, American College of Radiology and Alzheimer's Association, Roche, Amylx, Avanir
  - Community Collaborations: University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Alzheimer's Tennessee
- I have no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the contents of this presentation.

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# To my mentor



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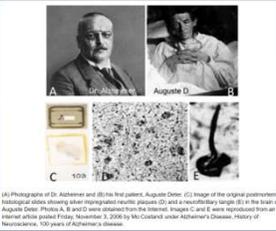
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### The first case of Alzheimer's disease was Early Onset Alzheimer's disease (EOAD)



- (A) Dr. Alzheimer and his first patient (B) Auguste Deter (1850-1906).
- In 1906, Dr. Alzheimer described postmortem histological slides showing silver impregnated neuritic plaques(D) and a neurofibrillary tangles (E) in Auguste's brain.

(A) Photographs of Dr. Alzheimer and (B) his first patient, Auguste Deter. (C) Image of the original postmortem histological slides showing silver impregnated neuritic plaques (D) and a neurofibrillary tangle (E) in the brain of Auguste Deter. Photos A, B and D were obtained from the Internet. Images C and E were reproduced from an original slide glass slide. November 2, 2006 by McCreland under Alzheimer's Disease. "History of Neuroscience, 100 years of Alzheimer's disease."

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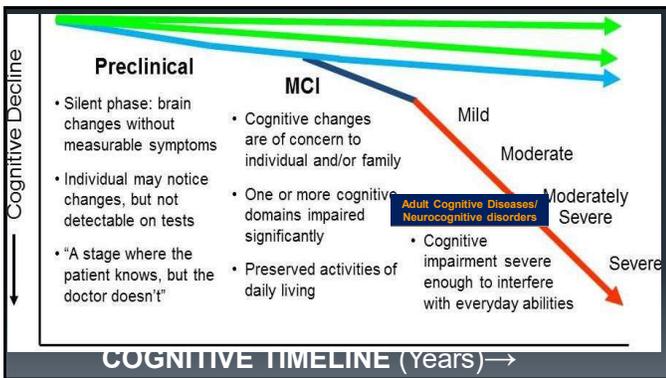
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### Early-onset Alzheimer's disease (EOAD)

- AD in people younger than age 65
- Includes mendelian (familial) and nonmendelian (typical) AD
- Less common than late onset Alzheimer's disease (LOAD)
- Affects 250,000-700,000 Americans but unclear due to underdiagnosis



Jan Chorlton was a CBS TV reporter in the 1980s. She began to decline in her 40s and was diagnosed at age 55. Her husband, CBS News correspondent Barry Petersen, has written *Jan's Story: Love Lost to the Long Goodbye of Alzheimer's*

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**EOAD Diagnostic challenge: atypical symptoms**

- Withdrawal from work and social activities
- Changes in mood and personality
- Poor judgement
- Poor cognitive flexibility
- Difficulty in finding words
- Visual problems
- Movement changes
  - Myoclonus,
  - Parkinsonism
- Seizures



Microsoft open stock photo

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**Support Needed for EOAD**

- Difficulties getting an accurate diagnosis
  - Delayed (1.6 years longer than LOAD)
- Loss of career and income
  - Major financial commitments (mortgage, tuition, etc)
- Loss of household role as a parent or spouse. May have dependent children at home
- Isolation
  - Community programs and living options are geared towards older patients

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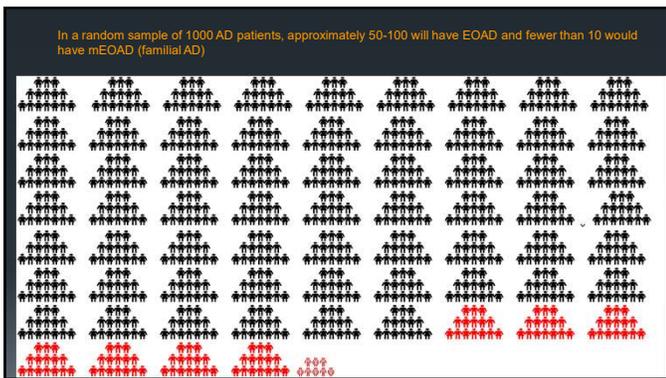
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Genetics and Alzheimer's Disease			
	Early-Onset AD (Dominantly Inherited) <b>Extremely rare</b>	Early-Onset AD (Complex Inheritance) <b>Common</b>	Late-Onset AD (Complex Inheritance) <b>Very Common</b>
Cause:	Inherited Genetic Mutations <b>"Familial"</b> <b>Mendelian</b>	Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors <b>non-Mendelian</b>	Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors
Age at Onset:	Usually 30-60 years	<65 years	>65 years
Proportion of Cases:	~1%	~4%	~95%

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**Mendelian EOAD or "Familial" dominantly inherited**

Mendelian EOAD is inheritance of disease based on Complete Dominance. You inherit one or two copy of the gene and you will have symptoms

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**Non-Mendelian traits: height, weight, hair and eye color, etc.**

Non-Mendelian EOAD is complex: some genetics are involved (incomplete inheritance, codominance, multiple alleles, polygenic, sex-linked, etc) AND environmental factors AND lifestyle factors

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**Most EOAD is (non-mendelian)  
a mix of genetic susceptibility  
and environment**

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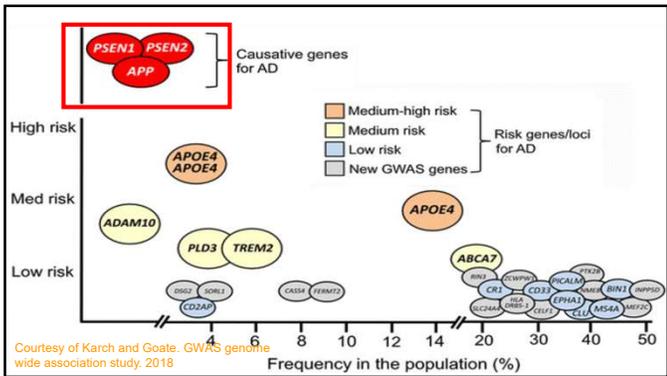
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**ApoE 4 (Apolipoprotein E4) increases the risk of AD in early and late life but does NOT cause AD.**

- (APOE) gene on chromosome 19. Each person inherits two APOE alleles, one from each biological parent.
- Makes a protein that carries cholesterol and other fats throughout the body including into the brain
- The ApoE gene comes in three different forms – ApoE2, ApoE3, and ApoE4.
- ApoE2 gene is protective but a small percentage of patients with APOE 2/2 and APOE 2/3 still develop Alzheimer's

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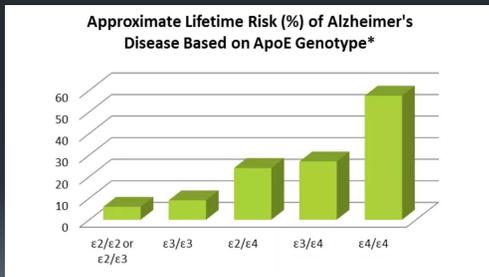
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### ApoE 4 (Apolipoprotein E4) increases risk of AD



Courtesy of Genin et al. Molac Psych (2011) 16:903.

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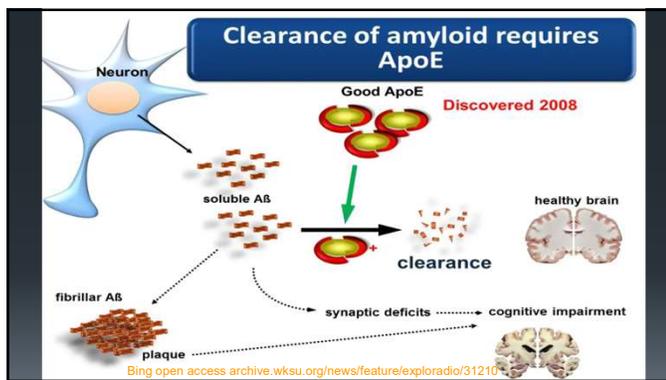
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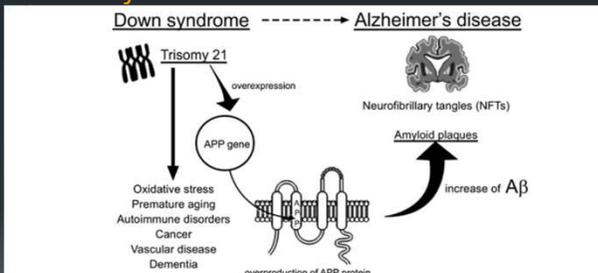
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### Down Syndrome



Alzheimer's Disease-related Biomarkers in Aging Adults with Down Syndrome: Systematic Review. Courtesy of Current Psychiatry Research and Reviews. 2019; 15:1. DOI: 10.2174/1573650515669196752152895

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### Alzheimer's disease subtypes

1. Typical Late Onset (*most common*)
2. Mixed
3. Frontal variant AD (nonamnesic)
4. Corticobasal variant AD
5. Logopenic PPA
6. Posterior cortical atrophy (PCA)
7. Typical Non mendelian or typical (nmEOAD)  
*common*
8. Mendelian (autosomal dominant) (mEOAD)  
*extremely rare*

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### Cognition is not just "memory" but many domains

Episodic memory	Recollection of past events and personal experiences	Executive functions	Organizing one's thinking, eg time management, judgment, planning, awareness, insight, and working memory
Semantic memory	Long-term storage of ideas and concepts	Attention	The capacity to focus and sustain concentration!
Working memory	A short-term storage module in which concepts are operated upon to solve problems	Language	Verbal expression, language interpretation, and communication!
Visuospatial function	Concerned with the integration of space and visual form	Praxis	Monitor and process data in the surrounding environment to plan a motor action, eg holding a pen

Hickey PD. *Diagnosis Clin Neurosci* 2012;1:227-237. 2. 28 EA. *Neurosci: ME: Hippocampus* 2008;10:102-200. 3. *Warril M et al. Dement Neurobiol* 2010;9:71-75

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Mr. G is a 55 year-old college educated married man who was fired from work due "mental health" problems.

Family History:  
Mother with Alzheimer's disease in her 70s and died at age 84

Maternal grandmother with "memory problems" died at age 80

score	score	ORIENTATION
5	5	5 What is the year? (season), (state), (day), (month)? FALL SO FLORIDA NOV.
5	5	5 Where are we (country), (state), (county), (city), (clinic)? USA TN SURRUS KNOXVILLE CRANE
3	3	<b>REGISTRATION</b> 3 Name 3 objects allotting one second to say each one. Then ask the resident to name all 3 objects after you have said them. Give one point for each correct answer. Repeat them until he/she hears all 3. Count trials and record number. APPLE BOOK COAT Trials: 1
5	5	<b>ATTENTION AND CALCULATION</b> 5 Begin with 100 and count back by 7 (stop after 5 answers) 93, 86, 79, 72, 65. Score one point for each correct answer. If the resident will not perform this task, ask the resident to spell "WORLD" backwards (DLROW). Record the resident's spelling: dlrowd
-3	0	3 <b>RECALL</b> <del>Y</del> <del>Z</del> <del>X</del> w/cues <del>X</del> <del>BOOK</del> <del>object</del> Ask the resident to repeat the objects above (see Registration). Give one point for each correct answer.
2	2	2 <b>LANGUAGE</b> <del>pen</del> <del>watch</del> Naming: Show a pencil, and a watch and ask the resident to name them.
-1	0	1 Repetition: Repeat the following: "No <del>is</del> , and/or but."
3	3	3 Three Stage Command: Follow the three-stage command. "Take paper in your right hand; fold it in half; and put it on the table."
1	1	1 Reading: Read and obey the following: "Close your eyes." Show the resident the item written on the reverse side, or attached.
1	1	1 Writing: Write a sentence (on reverse side)
-1	0	1 Copying: Copy the design of the intersecting pentagons (on reverse side).
25	30	Total Score Possible

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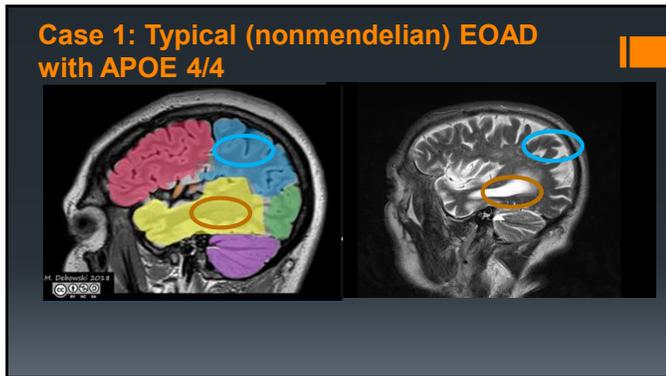
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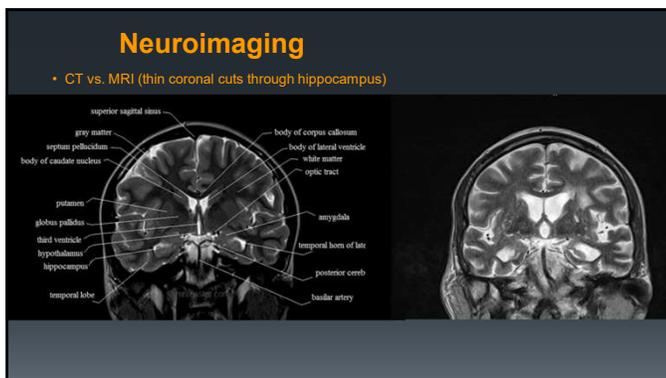
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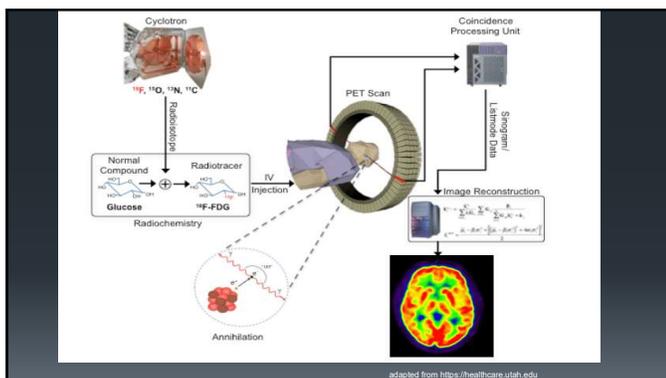
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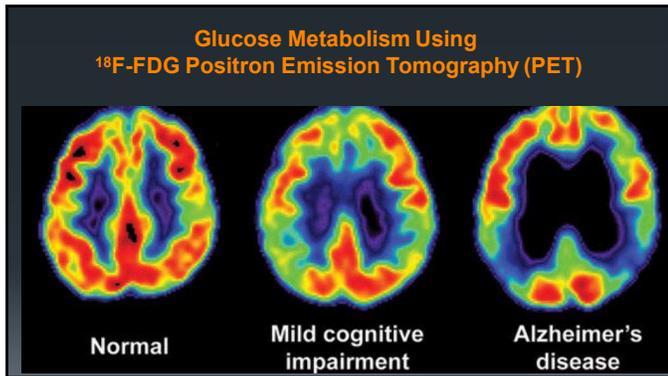
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**Case 2:**

- Ann\*, a 53 year-old right handed female who is a CPA presents with difficulty with seeing numbers and doing calculations.
- She and her husband moved to Tennessee three years ago so she could start her own business.
- Two years prior she complained that she vision was blurry. She saw her ophthalmologist many times.
- Her corrected vision was 20/20.

\*Ann's family has given us permission to share the actual details of her case including her first name. Her last name has been withheld for privacy.

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**Case 2: Ann's MMSE at her first visit**

**COPY DESIGN**

Ann closed her business after the first visit.

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**Case 2 Two Months after her first visit:**

Ann could not follow a line of text in books or newspapers. She was unable to calculate simple math.

Am 20. Januar 1997, kurz vor Beginn des offiziellen Festaktes zur Feier des 50-jährigen Bestehens des Fachbereichs, klopfte es an die Tür meines Dienstzimmers am Institut für Allgemeine Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft (IASPK). Auf mein „Herein!“ steckten zwei ältere Damen ihre Köpfe durch die Türöffnung und erklärten entschuldigend, sie wollten mich nicht stören, sondern lediglich einen kurzen Blick in ihr altes Zimmer werfen. Sie saßen auf Stühlen, auf denen sie sich nicht setzen konnten. Auf dem Tisch vor mir lagen einige alte Zeitungen und eine alte Schallplatte. Die Damen erzählten mir, dass sie in den 50er Jahren in der Übersetzung arbeiteten, gab es am Fachbereich noch kein sprachwissenschaftliches Lehramt und mein heutiges Dienstzimmer diente damals als Sozialraum im Wohntrakt für die Studentinnen.

**Normal**

Am 20. Januar 1997, kurz vor Beginn des offiziellen Festaktes zur Feier des 50-jährigen Bestehens des Fachbereichs, klopfte es an die Tür meines Dienstzimmers am Institut für Allgemeine Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft (IASPK). Auf mein „Herein!“ steckten zwei ältere Damen ihre Köpfe durch die Türöffnung und erklärten entschuldigend, sie wollten mich nicht stören, sondern lediglich einen kurzen Blick in ihr altes Zimmer werfen. Sie saßen ebenerdig auf Stühlen, auf denen sie sich nicht setzen konnten. Auf dem Tisch vor mir lagen einige alte Zeitungen und eine alte Schallplatte. Die Damen erzählten mir, dass sie in den 50er Jahren in der Übersetzung arbeiteten, gab es am Fachbereich noch kein sprachwissenschaftliches Lehramt und mein heutiges Dienstzimmer diente damals als Sozialraum im Wohntrakt für die Studentinnen.

**Impaired**

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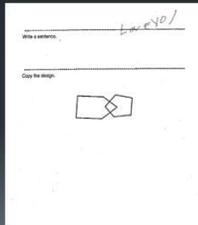
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**Case 2 after 6 months:**

Ann needed help to put the pen to the page to attempt a sentence and she could no longer “see” the intersecting pentagons.



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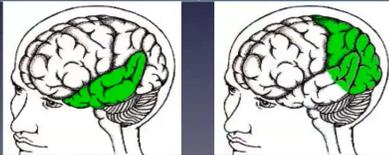
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**Case 2 Ann's Diagnosis: Posterior Cortical Atrophy (PCA)**

	Alzheimer's Disease (typical)	Posterior Cortical Atrophy
First Noticeable Symptoms	Short-term memory (rapid forgetting)	Visuospatial (visual)
First Area of the Brain Affected	Temporal lobe (hippocampus)	Parietal, occipital, posterior temporal



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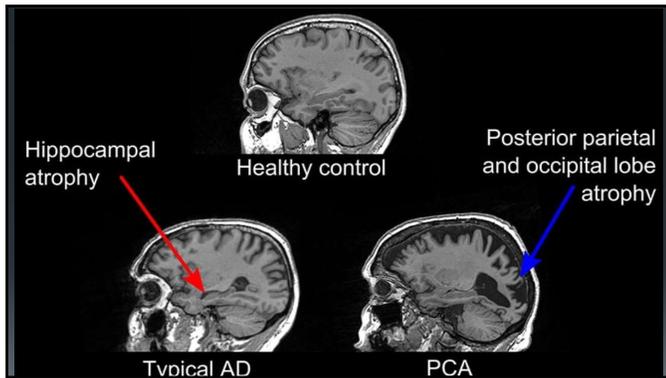
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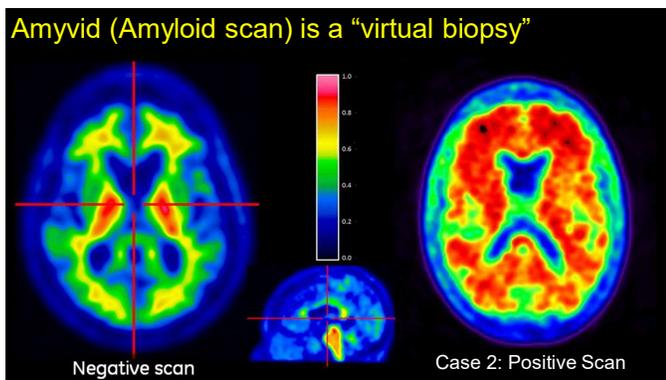
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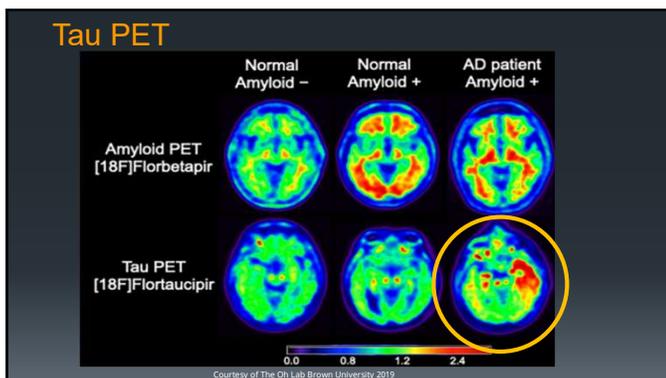
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**How a patient with PCA perceives a visual scene.**

Beh SC, et al. Pract Neurol 2015; 15:5-13. doi: 10.1136/practneurol-2014-000883

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**Trying to find the fork while eating or finding the handle to open the bathroom was like finding Waldo.**

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**Case 3:**

- Mrs. C, a 54 year-old right handed female who is a nursing assistant
- Spouse reports that she has difficulty naming things. She is quieter and prefers to listen.
- She does not lose items and seems to be able to drive without difficulty.

Phonetic Fluency (<12 abnormal) – Timed 1 minute each		
F	A	S
Fruit Flowers Flag Flash Favorite	Apple Apricot <del>Compact</del>	Salmon <del>Sandwich</del> Sausage Shrimp <del>Salamander</del> Pest Linc
5	2	4
Total: 11		

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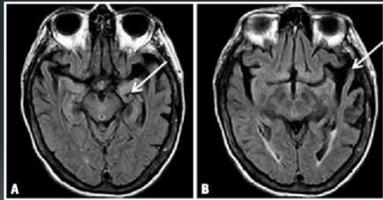
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### Case 3: Mrs. C was diagnosed with Logopenic Aphasia variant EOAD



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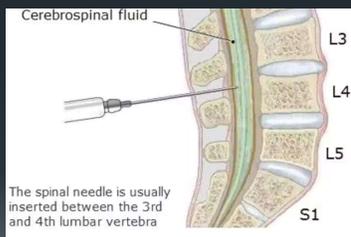
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### Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) for Amyloid, Tau and Phospho-Tau



Open Access Images

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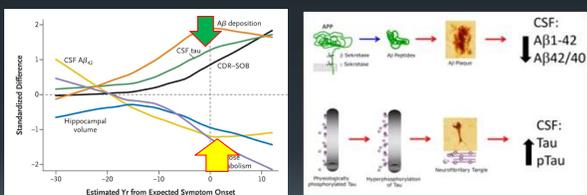
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### Alzheimer's Biomarker Timeline: CSF



Courtesy of N Engl J Med 2012; 367:795-804 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1202753  
 Courtesy of Lewczuk, P et al. Clinical significance of fluid biomarkers in Alzheimer's Disease. *Pharmacol. Rep* 72, 528-542 (2020).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s43440-020-00107-0>

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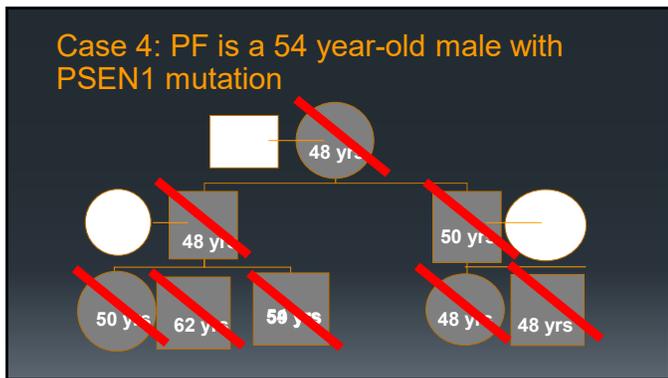
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Odds of one of the children in case 3 and 4 inheriting genetic EOAD

- Flip the coin: heads or tails
- $1 - (\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}) = .875 = 87.5\%$  chance that one child will have AD
- And a 12.5% chance that all 3 are negative or all 3 are positive

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Courtesy of DIAN and DIAN TU  
[www.dianexr@wustl.edu](http://www.dianexr@wustl.edu) and [www.dianexr.org](http://www.dianexr.org)

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## NEW STAGING SYSTEM

- Stage 1a-7d with ATNIVS biomarkers
- Similar to cancer staging
- Alzheimer's is a disease not a "dementia"
- Help shift awareness and promote screening

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### BRAND NEW CRITERIA: ATN to ATNIVS

Biomarker category	fluid	imaging
<b>Core Biomarkers</b>		
A (Ab proteinopathy)	Ab42/40	Amyloid PET
T (AD tau proteinopathy)	ptau 181, 217	Tau PET
<b>Non-specific biomarkers of tissue reaction involved in AD pathophysiology</b>		
N (injury, dysfunction, or degeneration of neuropil)	NIL	Anatomic MR, FDG PET
I (inflammation) Astrocytic activation	GFAP	
<b>Biomarkers of non-AD co-pathology</b>		
V vascular brain injury		Anatomic infarction, WMH, abundant dilated perivascular spaces
S $\alpha$ -synuclein	$\alpha$ Syn-SAA*	

From ATN To ATNIVS. In the proposed new scheme—which is currently a draft meant to solicit input from the AD/BD research community—A and T are the core biomarkers for diagnosis and staging. The draft scheme also recognizes an expanded suite of additional markers that detect non-specific disease responses and co-pathologies. [Courtesy of NIA-AA working group.]

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### New Staging of Alzheimer's disease: 0-7 a, b, c, d

	Initial stage biomarkers	Early stage biomarkers	Intermediate stage biomarkers	Advanced stage biomarkers
<b>PET staging</b>	(a) amyloid PET	(b) tau PET medial-temporal region	(c) tau PET moderate neocortical uptake	(d) tau PET high neocortical uptake
	A+T-	A+T <sub>med</sub> +	A+T <sub>mod</sub> +	A+T <sub>high</sub> +
<b>Fluid staging</b>	Ab42-40, fluid ptau 181, 217, 231	ptauT205	MTBR-243*	Non-phosphorylated tau fragments*

Parallel Tracks. The proposed criteria, shown here in draft form dated July 15, allow clinicians to stage disease by either PET or fluid markers; alas, the stages denoted by each are not equivalent, and the modalities cannot be mixed. Late-stage fluid biomarkers are less well-established than the others, with the starred markers meant to be used only in research settings at this time. [Courtesy of NIA-AA working group.]

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