

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Alzheimer's Disease is a form of dementia characterized by the progressive degenerative brain syndrome that affects memory, thinking, behavior, and emotion.

Causes

- Destruction of brain cells disrupting the transmitters that carry messages in the brain, particularly those responsible for storing memories

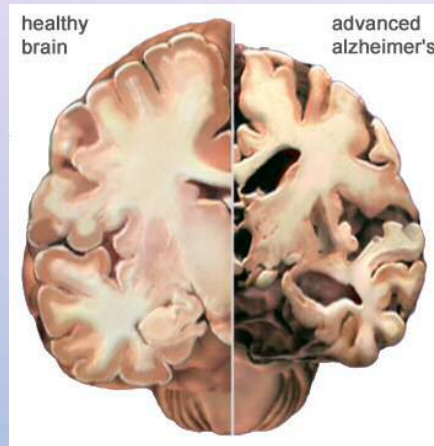
Cause of brain cell destruction remains unknown.

Studies show that genetic factors play a part in the development of the disorder.

- The neurotransmitters acetylcholine and norepinephrine hypothesized to be hypoactive in Alzheimer's Disease

Signs and Symptoms

- Loss of memory
Characterized by inability to recall past as well as new persons, events, situations, and information
- Difficulty in finding the right words
- Difficulty in understanding what people are saying
- Difficulty in performing previously routine tasks
- Personality and mood changes



Treatment

- Currently there is no cure for Alzheimer's Disease.
- General treatment approach to patient is to provide supportive medical care, pharmacological treatment for specific symptoms, including disruptive behavior, and emotional support for patients and their families.

Prevention

The risk of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias may be reduced by eating right, exercising, staying mentally and socially active, and keeping stress in check. By leading a brain-healthy lifestyle, you may even be able to prevent the symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease entirely and slow down, or even reverse, the deterioration of aging.