Alzheimer’s disease

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Alzheimer’s disease refers to an irreversible brain impairment that affects a person’s memory, thinking skills, and ability to perform simple tasks (Weller & Budson, 2018). It is among the major causes of deaths in America. The major symptom of this condition is difficulty in remembering new information because as the impairment begins, it affects that part of the brain responsible for learning. The signs and symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease become severe as the condition advances. These severe symptoms include being suspicious of caregivers, family members, and friends, behavioral changes, confusion about things like place and time, disorientation, and severe memory loss. Alzheimer’s disease affects various parts of the brain. It damages neurons and other connections vital to memory, such as hippocampus and enthorhinal. It also destroys different regions in the cerebral cortex that facilitate functions like social behaviors, reasoning, as well as communication. As Alzheimer’s disease progresses, an individual becomes unable to live an independent life.

The condition is fatal and can result in death. Researchers have not yet found the exact cause of Alzheimer’s disease. However, at a basic level, the condition results from the inability of brain proteins to function properly and this interferes with the functioning of neurons and activates various toxic events. The damaged neurons lose connections and die eventually. Alzheimer’s disease destroys the part of the brain responsible for controlling memory before it progresses to other regions (Weller & Budson, 2018). The brain shrinks significantly by the time it affects other parts. According to scientists, most cases of Alzheimer’s disease are due to a combination of several factors, including environmental, lifestyle, and genetic factors. Two proteins, tangles and plaques, play crucial roles in this disease. Tangles are parts of the brain that carry nutrients. In people with Alzheimer, these proteins change their shapes and this affects the transportation system. Plaques also affect the neurons adversely and interfere with communication between cells.

Reference

Weller, J., & Budson, A. (2018). Current understanding of Alzheimer’s disease diagnosis and treatment. *F1000research*, *7*, 1161. <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.14506.1>