



Received: 27-10-2024

Accepted: 07-12-2024

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research and Studies

ISSN: 2583-049X

Alzheimer's Disease: A Comprehensive Overview

¹ Payal Sahu, ² Shikha Sahu, ³ Bhuneshwari Sahu, ⁴ Sanjay Sahu, ⁵ Dikeshwar Verma, ⁶ Suchita Wamankar

^{1, 2, 3} Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, Kurud-Kohka, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, 490024, India

^{4, 5} Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kurud-Kohka, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, 490024, India

⁶ Associate Professor, Rungta Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kohka, Bhilai, 490024, Chhattisgarh, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62225/2583049X.2024.4.6.3546>

Corresponding Author: Suchita Wamankar

Abstract

The primary factor contributing to dementia, which is defined by a decrease in one's capacity for independent thought and action and everyday actions, is Alzheimer's disease (AD), a syndrome that sources the degradation of mind lockups. The two primary theories proposed as the etiology of AD, a complex sickness, remain the cholinergic and amyloid hypotheses. The disease is influenced by many risk factors, such as aging, inheritances, head trauma, vascular matters, impurities, and ecological variables. Cholinesterase enzyme inhibitors and N-methyl d-aspartate (NMDA) opponents are the only dual forms of approved treatments available to indulge AD at this time. Only AD symptoms can be effectively treated with these drugs. They neither stop nor cure the condition. Over 20 danger features aimed at the Alzheimer's virus were identified in the primary assessments. These included stage, disturbing mind damage,

exposure near aluminum, familial inheritance, and related comorbidities such as infection and then vascular illness. This review reexamines these risk variables in light of new data, highlights those that are currently thought to be significant, and explores a number of theories to explain how they might contribute to AD. Both presenilin (PSEN1/2) and amyloid precursor protein (APP) gene mutations are the causative genetic factor changes that stay closely related to rare forms of familial AD with an early onset (EO-FAD). Sporadic AD with late onset (LO-SAD), on the other hand, is a complex condition where age-linked alterations, risk factors related to genetics, including allelomorphic differences in the immune system, infection, metal exposure, vascular disease, traumatic brain damage, apolipoprotein E (Apo E), then various extra DNA segments, and dietary danger features are all concerned.

Keywords: Degeneration, Alzheimer's Disease, amyloseous Peptide, Tau Protein, Dangerfeatures, Heat Shock Protein, Supervisors, Disease-modifying Medication, Diagnosis, and Treatment

1. Introduction

The most prevalent form of dementia, Alzheimer's disease (AD), is clinically defined by a gradual deterioration in cognitive function that progresses from sporadic memory issues to AD^[1]. When analyzing the brain of his first patient, who experienced memory loss and personality changes prior to brain death, Alois Alzheimer discovered amyloid plaques and a significant loss of neurons. He characterized the condition as a severe cerebral cortex disease^[2, 3]. Changes in the metabolism of amyloid precursor proteins, tau protein phosphorylation, oxidative stress, impaired energetics, mitochondrial dysfunction, inflammation, membrane lipid dysregulation, and disruption of neurotransmitter pathways are just a few of the biochemical variations that interact intricately in AD pathology^[4]. Alzheimer's disease (AD) cannot be prevented by current therapies, although early detection can help people live better lives by preventing the condition from getting worse.

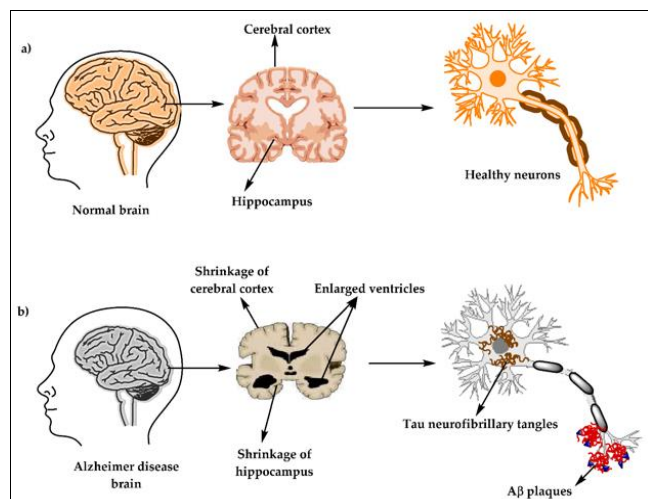


Fig 1: Shows the biological makeup of the mind and nerve cell in the intelligences of people with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and those in good health

Examining neuropathology Typical indicators of the disease include the buildup of cells' tau protein; this results in the death of neurofibrillary masses besides pyramidal cells and the amyloid beta ($A\beta$) peptide buildup in what are known as senile plaques. 46.8 million individuals worldwide suffer with Alzheimer's, a neurocognitive condition that can lower somebody's quality of life and impact those in their middle or advanced years. By 2050, there are predicted to be 106.8 million AD sufferers. Long-term care for those suffering from dementia is expected to cost \$290 billion [6, 7]. Ongoing research attempts to slow down the brain's aberrant neuronal degeneration in order to detect AD early. Additionally, it offers the patient's family financial and emotional support.

2. Alzheimer and Auguste D

Alois, Dr. Alois Alzheimer, a German neuropathologist and physician, is recognized for being the first to describe AD, a dementing illness. 51-year-old Auguste D., who has a "peculiar disease of the cerebral cortex," was the subject of Alzheimer's investigation and his seminal 1906 conference lecture. She had shown signs of misunderstanding, communication indications (such as mirages, mistakes, and fear), psychosocial damage, and increasing memory and language impairment [12,13].

3. Symptoms

- The loss of memory Communication difficulties A shift in mood
- Shift in personality
- Disturbances in emotions
- Bewilderment and confusion
- Having trouble identifying familiar faces or locations
- Issues with making decisions and solving problems
- Challenges with language understanding
- Each person experiences symptoms differently.
- Everybody progresses at a different pace.
- The progression of disease can be slowed by early diagnosis and treatments.
- Anxiety
- Agitation
- Depression
- Problem-solving difficulties.

4. Alzheimer's Disease Causes and Risk Factors

Increased age, genetic factors, brain traumas, vascular issues, infections, and environmental factors (heavy metals, trace metals, and others) are risk factors for AD, a polymorphic condition (Fig 2). The pathogenic changes ($A\beta$, NFTs, and synaptic loss) that take place in Alzheimer's disease are yet unknown. Despite the fact that many theories have been proposed to explain AD, two are considered to be the most significant: Some argue that cholinergic dysfunction is a significant risk factor for AD, while others maintain that the main initiating factor is alterations in the production and processing of amyloid β -protein. However, as of right now, no accepted explanation exists to explain the pathophysiology of AD [7, 8].

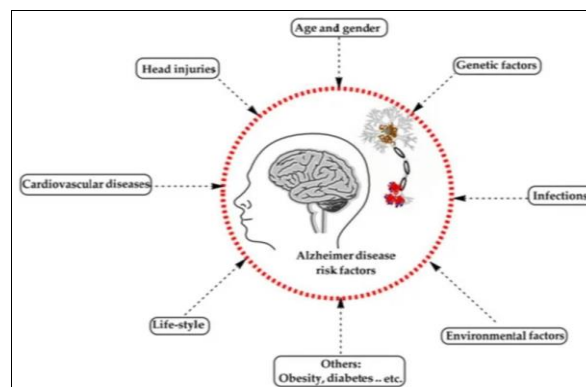


Fig 2: The risk factors for Alzheimer's disease

5. Alzheimer's disease pathophysiology

5.1 Change popular brain structure

The progressive loss of brain tissue is an overall definition of the etiology of Alzheimer's disease (AD). In a specific pattern, neurons eventually die as the disease progresses. One of the initial memory losses, especially short-range remembrance loss, stays a trademark of AD. One area of the brain linked to memory is the cortex, namely the hippocampus (Fig 3).

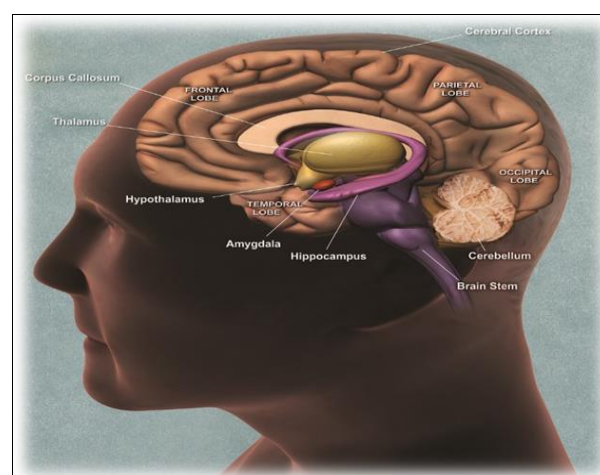


Fig 3: Major Areas of the Brain

5.2 Progressive process of Alzheimer's disease

At the microcomputer near, AD stays distinguished in three intracellular neurofibrillary, which stay a characteristic of neuropathology., neuronal degeneration, and amyloid tablets stay extracellular masses, credits of the β -amyloid

protein. Alois Alzheimer made the initial discovery of plaques and NFTs during the autopsy of a patient who had dementia in 1906. They are not specific to AD, even though they are one of its distinguishing characteristics. Both normal aging and certain other neurological diseases can cause plaques and NFTs. Plaques and NFTs in AD are found in brain regions that correlate to clinical symptoms.

5.2.1 Brain Changes in Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease

The area responsible for memory formation, the brain's hormone system, connects the intellectual pallium to the hippocampus (rapid- and lasting remembrance; Fig 4) then is where preclinical AD starts. One Neuronic damage, as directed by waste popular specific locations, might start years earlier than symptoms of recall injury look, according to a number of studies, including ones using magnetic resonance imaging.

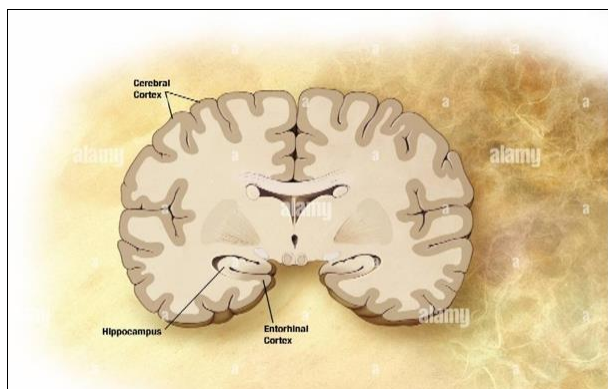


Fig 4: Brain Alterations in Alzheimer's Disease Preclinical

5.2.2 In slightnearsensible Alzheimer's disease, the brain changes

Through brain shrinkage, the space formerly held by brain tissue is replaced by cerebral fluid. Persons with slight, near-sensible AD suffer from more obvious recall damage (such as trouble remembering familiar names and becoming confused about familiar locations), a reduction in their capacity to process complex ideas (such as trouble preparing meals or balancing the checkbook), and alterations in their disposition and disposition. There is atrophy in additional areas of the brain's brainy pallium as well. (Fig 5).

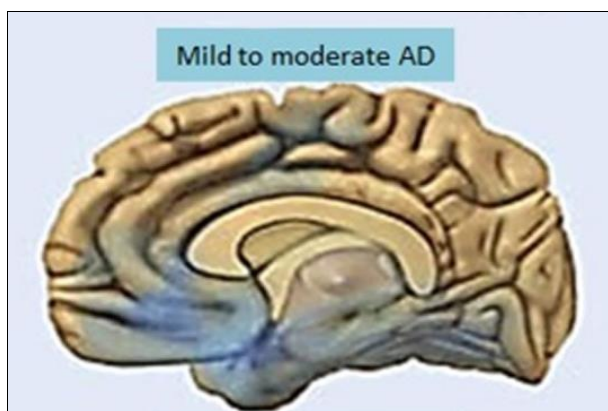


Fig 5: In slightnearsensible Alzheimer's disease, the brain changes

5.2.3 Fluctuationspopular the Mind with Severe Alzheimer's Disease

The parts of the pallium that govern language, mental and physical processing, and aware thought shrank in the final

phases of AD development (Fig 6). Cognitive, motor, and emotional capacities are all impacted by the profound brain alterations that take place in severe Alzheimer's disease. The brain's cortical layer shrinks and the ventricles enlarge as a result of cortical atrophy and ventricular enlargement. Atrophy affects emotions, memory formation, and other aspects of the mind, encompassing the amygdala and hippocampal regions.

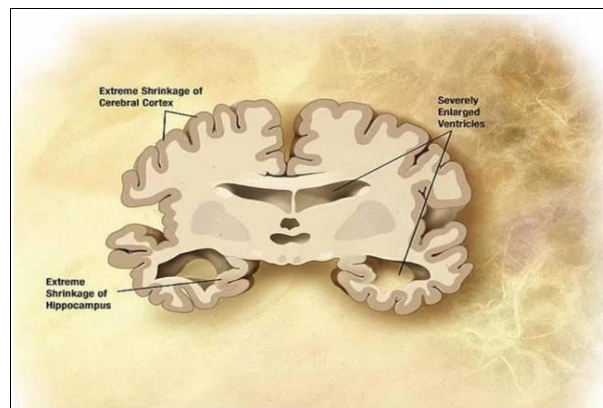
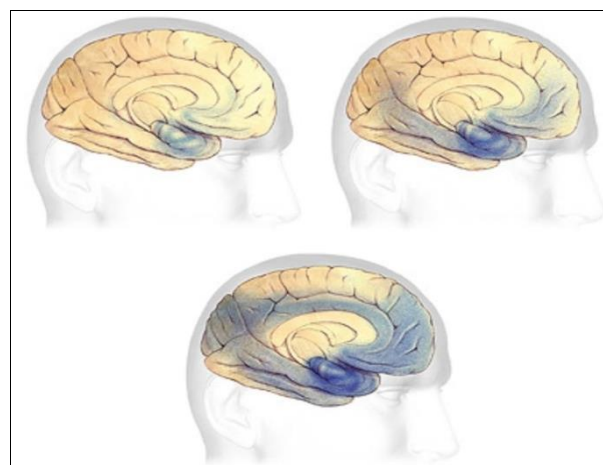


Fig 6: Fluctuations popular the Mind with Severe Alzheimer's Disease

5.2.4 Brain damage and atrophy during Alzheimer's Disease progression

The symptoms of severe AD, such as seizures, incontinence, weight loss, difficulty sitting up, difficulty recognizing loved ones, groaning, moaning, and grunting, worsen as anticipated with this level of brain atrophy. Fig 4 shows a graphic showing the course of atrophy throughout the brain. Neuronal death and synaptic loss are caused by the accumulation of neurofibrillary tangles and amyloid plaques. White matter injury, ventricular enlargement, and a decrease in brain volume all impair communication between different parts of the brain. Near-total cognitive impairment is the end result of worldwide brain atrophy, cerebral cortical thinning, and brain weight loss. This terrible progression emphasizes how urgent it is to diagnose Alzheimer's patients early, treat them well, and provide them with caring care.



A, preclinical Alzheimer's disease; B, mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease; and C, severe Alzheimer's disease

Fig 7: Brain damage and atrophy during Alzheimer's Disease progression

6. Treatment of Alzheimer's disease

6.1 Present styles in the action of Alzheimer's disease

▪ Cholinergics

The nucleus basalis of Meynert, a distinct population of basal forebrain neurons, is one of the primary sources of cholinergic innervation to the cerebral cortex. Whitehouse and associates discovered in 1982 that AD patients have preferential (>70%) degeneration of these neurons [14, 15]. Moreover, cognitive dysfunction has been demonstrated to be closely associated with the decrease of cholinergic function.

▪ Neurotrophins

In the 1980s, several research inspecting the effect of growth issues on the mature vital anxious structure started to show promising findings. It was discovered in 1986 that basal forebrain cholinergic neurons could not die spontaneously or following injury when courage-growing feature was infused into the mature swine mind. Further research in mouse models during the following ten years revealed improvements in cognitive deficiencies and.

▪ Antioxidants

One important pathogenic process connected to aging and AD is oxidative stress.

According to multiple lines of evidence. Additionally, it has stayed verified that oxidative strain indications precede compulsive cuts in AD, such as neurofibrillary tangles and confused tablets. Thus, antioxidants may decrease the course of AD or mitigate its cognitive deterioration. Selegiline, α -tocopherol, or both were compared to a placebo in the Alzheimer's Disease Helpful Education.

▪ Statins

The first study to show a neuropathologic change in statin use (a decreased neurofibrillary tangle burden at autopsy) was just released, and simvastatin has been shown to decrease cerebral A β levels *in vivo*. Statins were shown to provide a significant preventive advantage against dementia in the Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) Study, even if a later analysis of a larger sample showed a protective effect in those who began taking them before the age of 80.

▪ NSAIDs, or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines

A β deposition and plaque development are associated with an innate immune response that includes complement activation, pro-inflammatory cytokine secretion, chemokine synthesis, and nitric oxide excretion, which results in apoptosis. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may reduce the risk of AD by downregulating astrocytes, microglia, and pro-inflammatory signals, which in turn reduces the synthesis of A β 1-42.

▪ Hormone replacement therapy

Attractive intellectual plasma current, avoiding cholinergic nerve cell wasting, depressing oxidative strain, and modifying the activities of bravery development factors stay some of the effects of estrogen. A meta-analysis and a randomized clinical trial both revealed that mental purpose development may be delayed by postmenopausal estrogen replacement therapy (ERT), according to three prospective, population-based epidemiologic investigations.

▪ Preventing excitotoxicity

Glutamate is involved in cortical and hippocampal nerve cell as the main excitative neurotransmitter. There is an excess of glutamate in the intellects of AD affected roleplayable to the oxidation of glutamine synthetase. Due to

glutamate's overstimulation of NMDA receptors, CNS nerve cell is more vulnerable to neuronal degeneration. By inhibiting glutamate-gated NMDA channels, memantine (marketed under the brand Namanda®, Forest) prevents pathological activation while maintaining normal activation.

▪ Diet

A Mediterranean Sea meal has lately been found to be related by inferior prevalence of AD. A following education suggests that the Mediterranean Seafood and lower mortality in AD may be related in an amount answer manner. This food is defined via a moderate amount of ethanol, a short to reasonable eating of dairy products, a moderately high consumption of angle, a little to reasonable eating of core and fowl, and a short to modest intake of soaking oily doses.

▪ Amyloid Cascade Hypothesis

The function of the type-1 transmembrane protein A β PP is unknown. Dual peptidases (β - and γ -secretases) break it to produce A β . Mammalian cells also constitutively secrete A β , which is found in clothed CSF regularly. According to the supposition of the Amyloid Cascade, the pathogenesis of AD is started in the mismetabolism of A β PP, which causes A β , specifically A β 42, to aggregate. The idea that A β is essential for the onset of AD is supported by several clinical.

▪ Lewy body disease that is diffuse

Among dementia subgroups, the second most common condition is wordy Lewy Body Disease (DLBD) prevalent. Lewy form illnesses are distinguished after extra kinds of dementia by the widespread occurrence of Lewy bodies, which are made up of aggregation of α -synuclein. Lewy bodies in posterior temporal areas are linked to hallucinations in DLBD. Late-onset Parkinsonism, personality changes, and cognitive fluctuations can also happen. The interruption of medial temporal lobe projections is linked to increased executive dysfunction.

6.2 Potential Future Treatments for Alzheimer's disease:

▪ Pharmacological Interventions:

1. Therapies that target beta-amyloid:

Aducanumab (BIIB-037)

Gantenerumab (RO4909832)

BAN2401

2. Tau-targeting treatments:

Tau antibodies (e.g., gosuranemab)

Tau aggregation inhibitors (e.g., TRx0237)

3. Immunotherapy:

Vaccines (e.g., AD02)

Antibodies (e.g., bapineuzumab)

4. Small-molecule treatments:

Kinase inhibitors (e.g., SAR110069)

Gamma-secretase inhibitors (e.g., semagacestat)

5. Combination treatments:

Cholinesterase inhibitors + memantine

Beta-amyloid-targeting + tau-targeting therapies

▪ Gene Therapies:

1. Gene editing (e.g., CRISPR/Cas9)

2. Gene expression modulation (e.g., RNA interference)

3. Gene delivery (e.g., viral vectors).

▪ Stem Cell Therapies:

1. Replanting neural stem cells

2. Treatment using mesenchymal stem cells

3. Therapy using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs)

▪ Lifestyle Interventions:

1. Training and stimulation of the brain

2. Physical activity and recovery
3. Social interaction and assistance
4. Dietary and nutritional measures (e.g., Mediterranean diet).

▪ **Technological Innovations:**

1. Interfaces between the brain and computers.
2. The use of neurostimulation (e.g., transcranial magnetic stimulation)
3. Wearable technology for cognitive function monitoring
4. Applications for mobile health (mHealth)
5. Telemedicine and remote observation.

▪ **Emerging Therapies:**

1. Senolytic treatment, which targets senescent cells
2. Treatments that target the mitochondria
3. Epigenetic medicines
4. Modulation of the microbiome
5. Treatments based on nanoparticles.

▪ **Clinical Trials:**

1. Aducanumab (BIIB-037) Phase 3 trial
2. Gantenerumab (RO4909832) Phase 3 trial
3. Treatments that target tau (e.g., gosuranemab)
4. Gene therapies (e.g., gene editing).

7. Conclusion

Cognitive decline, memory loss, and dementia are the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease, a complicated and progressive illness. For patients and their families, it presents a serious obstacle. It is essential to comprehend the pathophysiology, causes, risk factors, symptoms, available treatments, and prospects for the future. Despite the lack of a proven cure at this time, new medicines and continued research provide patients hope for a better quality of life. It is crucial to increase awareness and carry out more study on Alzheimer's disease.

8. References

1. Citron M. Alzheimer's disease: Strategies for disease modification, *Nat. Rev. Drug Discov.* 2010; (9):387-398.
2. Fox NC, Crum WR, Scahill RI, *et al.* Imaging of onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease with voxel-compression mapping of serial magnetic resonance images. *Lancet.* 2001; 358:201-205.
3. Kaye JA, Swihart T, Howieson D, *et al.* Volume loss of the hippocampus and temporal lobe in healthy elderly persons destined to develop dementia. *Neurology.* 1997; 48:1297-1304.
4. Kaddurah-Daouk R, Zhu H, Sharma S, Bogdanov M, Rozen SG, Matson W, *et al.* Alterations in metabolic pathways and networks in Alzheimer's disease, *Transl. Psychiatry.* 2013; 3:244.
5. Alzheimer A. Ubereineigenartige Erkrankung der Hirnrinde [About a Peculiar Disease of the Cerebral Cortex]. *Allg Z Psychiatr.* 1907; 64:146-48.
6. Maurer K, Volk S, Gerbaldo H, Auguste D and Alzheimer's disease. *Lancet.* 1997; 349(9064):1546-1549.
7. Armstrong RA. Risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. *Folia Neuropathol.* 2019; 57:87-105.
8. Alzheimer A. Ubereineigenartige Erkrankung der Hirnrinde [About a Peculiar Disease of the Cerebral Cortex]. *Allg Z Psychiatr.* 1907; 64:146-48.
9. Alzheimer A. About a peculiar disease of the cerebral cortex. *Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord.* 1987; 1:3-8.
10. Maurer K, Volk S, Gerbaldo H, Auguste D and Alzheimer's disease. *Lancet.* 1997; 349(9064):1546-1549.
11. Anand P, Singh B. A review on cholinesterase inhibitors for Alzheimer's disease. *Arch. Pharmacol Res.* 2013; 36:375-399.
12. Yiannopoulou KG, Papageorgiou SG. Current and future treatments in alzheimer disease: An update. *J. Cent. Nerv. Syst. Dis.* 2020, 12.
13. Livingston G, Huntley J, Sommerlad A, Ames D, Ballard C, Banerjee S, *et al.* Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2020 report of the Lancet Commission. *Lancet.* 2020; 396:413-446.
14. Shah Reena S, *et al.* Current approaches in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy.* 2008; 62(4):199-207.
15. Mayeux Richard, Mary Sano. Treatment of Alzheimer's disease. *New England Journal of Medicine.* 1999; 341(22):1670-1679.
16. Yiannopoulou Konstantina G, Sokratis G Papageorgiou. Current and future treatments for Alzheimer's disease. *Therapeutic advances in neurological disorders.* 2013; 6(1):19-33.
17. Shah Reena S, *et al.* Current approaches in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy.* 2008; 62(4):199-207.
18. Atri Alireza. Current and future treatments in Alzheimer's disease. *Seminars in Neurology.* Vol. 39. No. 02. Thieme Medical Publishers, 2019.
19. Schelterns Philip, Howard Feldman. Treatment of Alzheimer's disease; current status and new perspectives. *The Lancet Neurology.* 2003; 2(9):539-547.
20. Selkoe Dennis J. Treatments for Alzheimer's disease emerge. *Science.* 2021; 373(6555):624-626.
21. Imbimbo Bruno P, Jay Lombard, Nunzio Pomara. Pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease. *Neuroimaging clinics.* 2005; 15(4):727-753.
22. Chouliaras Leonidas, *et al.* Epigenetic regulation in the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease. *Progress in neurobiology.* 2010; 90(4):498-510.
23. Jagust William. Imaging the evolution and pathophysiology of Alzheimer disease. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience.* 2018; 19(11):687-700.
24. Twohig Daniel, Henrietta M Nielsen. α -synuclein in the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease. *Molecular neurodegeneration.* 2019; 14(1).
25. Yarns Brandon C, *et al.* Pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease. *Psychiatric Clinics.* 2022; 45(4):663-676.
26. Thakur A Kumar, *et al.* Pathophysiology and management of Alzheimer's disease: An overview. *J anal pharm Res.* 2018; 9(2):226-235.
27. Armstrong Richard A. Risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. *Folia neuropathologica.* 2019; 57(2):87-105.
28. Edwards III, George A, *et al.* Modifiable risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. *Frontiers in aging neuroscience.* 2019; 11:146.
29. Munoz David G, Howard Feldman. Causes of Alzheimer's disease. *Cmaj.* 2000; 162(1):65-72.
30. Whalley LJ. Risk factors in Alzheimer's disease. *BMJ: British Medical Journal.* 1991; 303(6812):1215.
31. Caruso Alessandra, *et al.* Risk factors for Alzheimer's disease: Focus on stress. *Frontiers in Pharmacology.*

- 2019; 10:976.
32. Li Xiao-Ling, *et al.* Behavioral and psychological symptoms in Alzheimer's disease. *BioMed Research International*. 2014; 2014(1):927804.
 33. Joe Elizabeth, John M Ringman. Cognitive symptoms of Alzheimer's disease: Clinical management and prevention. *BMJ*. 2019; 367.
 34. López Oscar L, Steven T DeKosky. Clinical symptoms in Alzheimer's disease. *Handbook of Clinical Neurology*. 2008; 89:207-216.
 35. Zhao Qing-Fei, *et al.* The prevalence of neuropsychiatric symptoms in Alzheimer's disease: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of affective disorders*. 2016; 190:264-271.
 36. Mehmood A, Yang S, Feng Z, Wang M, Ahmad AS, Khan R, *et al.* A transfer learning approach for early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease on MRI images. *Neuroscience*. 2021; 460:43-52. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroscience.2021.01.002>.
 37. Bond M, Rogers G, Peters J, *et al.* The effectiveness and cost effectiveness of donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine and memantine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (review of Technology Appraisal No 111): A systematic review and economic model. *Health Technol Assess*. 2012; 16:1-470.
 38. Chow VW, Mattson MP, Wong PC, Gleichmann M. An overview of APP processing enzymes and products. *Neuromolecular Med*. 2010; 12:1-12.
 39. Haass C, Selkoe DJ. Soluble protein oligomers in neurodegeneration: Lessons from the Alzheimer's amyloid beta-peptide. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol*. 2007; 8:101-112.
 40. Chaves R, Ramirez J, *et al.* FDG and PIB biomarker PET analysis for the Alzheimer's disease detection using Association Rules. *Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference (NSS/MIC)*, IEEE, 2012.
 41. Liu M, Zhang D, *et al.* Ensemble sparse classification of Alzheimer's disease. *Neuroimage*. 2012; 60(2):1106-1116.
 42. Chen Z, Zhong C. Decoding Alzheimer's disease from perturbed cerebral glucose metabolism: Implications for diagnostic and therapeutic strategies, *Prog. Neurobiol*. 2013; (108):21-43.
 43. Caspersen C, Wang N, Yao J, Sosunov A, Chen X, Lustbader JW, *et al.* Mitochondrial abeta: A potential focal point for neuronal metabolic dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease, *FASEB J*. 2005; 19:2040-2041.