

“Lead From Where You Stand”



EXTRA Research Project: Reducing Antipsychotic Medications



WRHA PCH Program

Alzheimer *Society*
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Module 1: Dementia and Alzheimer's



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EXERCISE

- Think of 10 words that come to mind when you think of a person with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.



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Which statement does the list reflect?

The PERSON with dementia.

or

The person with DEMENTIA.



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“It is more important to know what person the disease has than what disease the person has.”

Sir William Osler



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Dementia is: a progressive disease of the brain in which there is a disturbance of multiple functions.

Dementia is not: a normal part of aging

The experience of living with dementia is not the same for all.



Courtesy of the Alzheimer Society of Ontario
photographer: John Rennison



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Prevalence Rates by Age:

- 1 in 50 between ages 65 and 74.
- 1 in 9 between ages 75 and 84.
- 1 in 3 between ages 85 and 95.
- 1 in 2 beyond age 95.

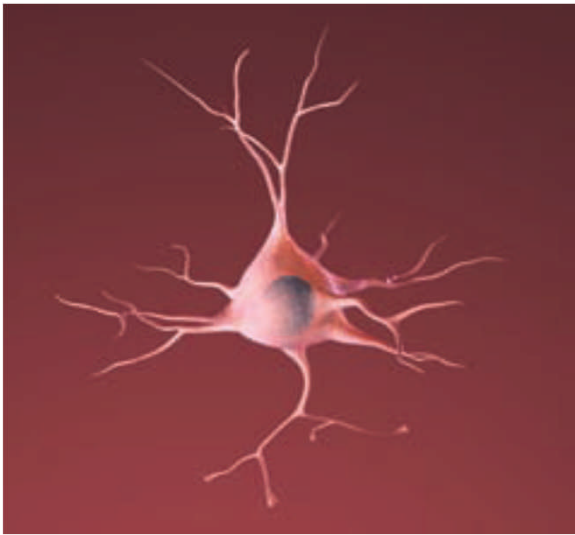


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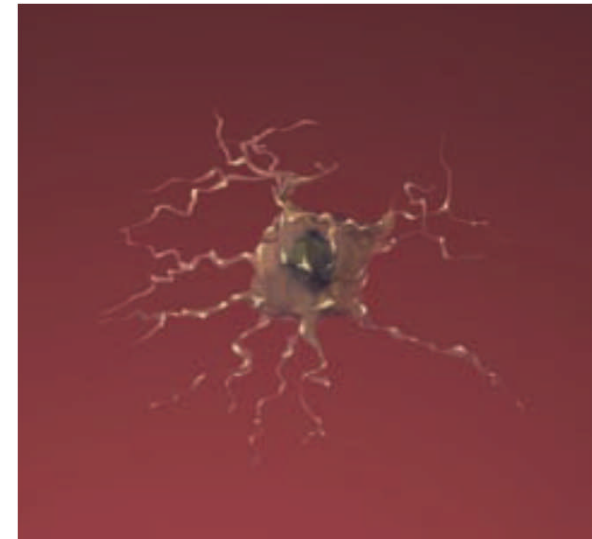
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What is Alzheimer's Disease?

- A progressive disease of the brain.
- Results in the damage and death of brain cells.



Healthy Neuron



Dying Neuron

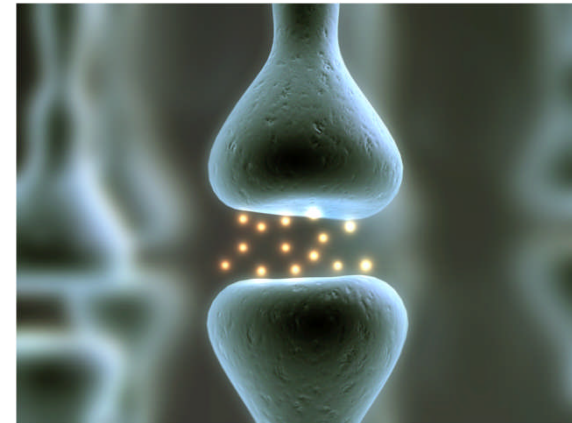


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Changes in the Brain:

- Formation of plaques
- Formation of tangles
- Brain shrinkage
- Changes in brain chemistry
- Inflammation

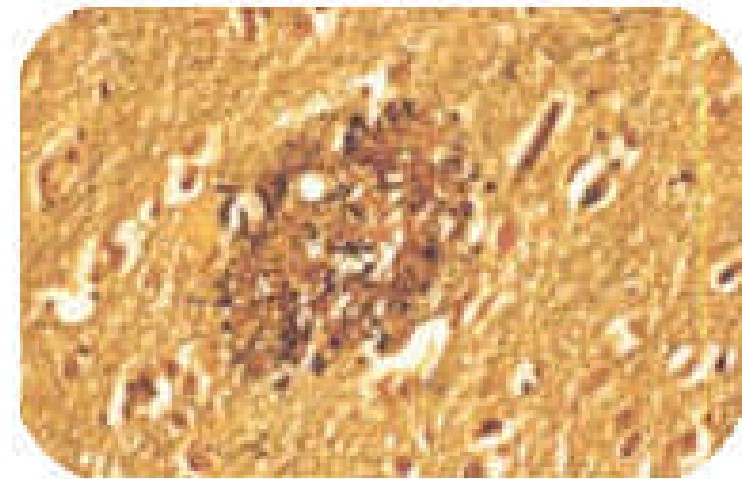
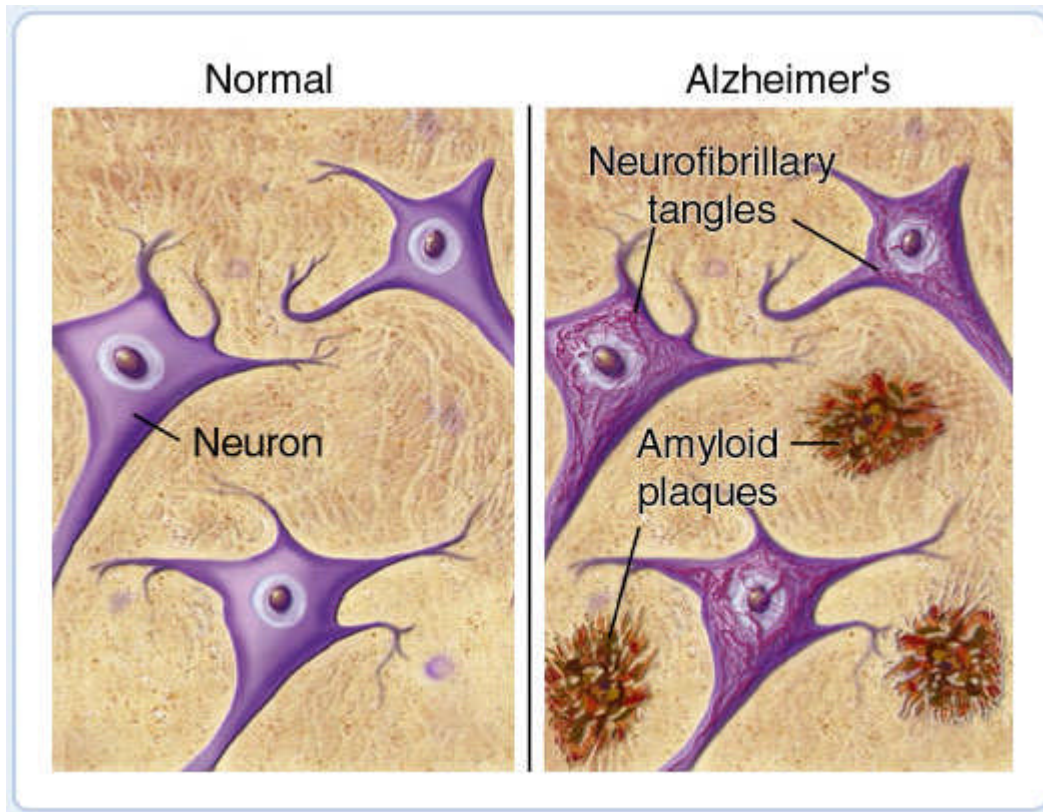


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Changes in the Brain:

Plaques:



Close up of plaque

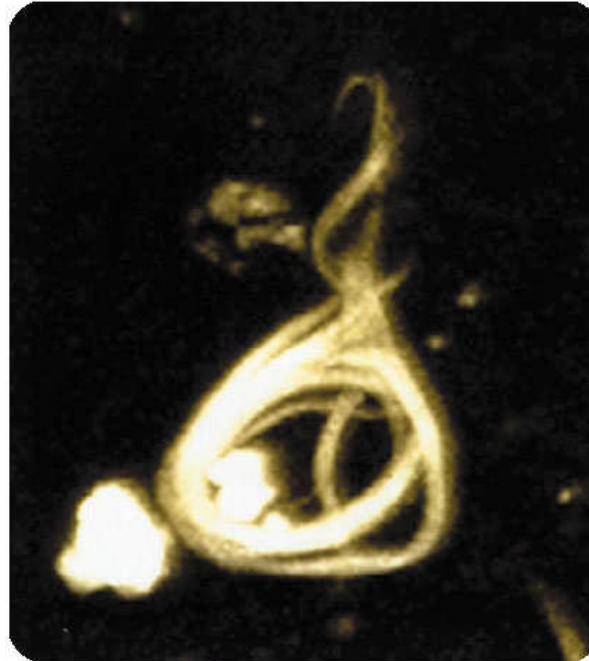


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Changes in the Brain:

Tangles:



Microscopy image of a neurofibrillary tangle

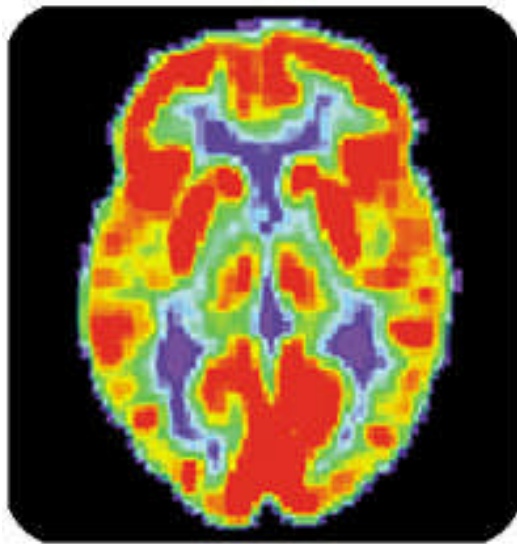


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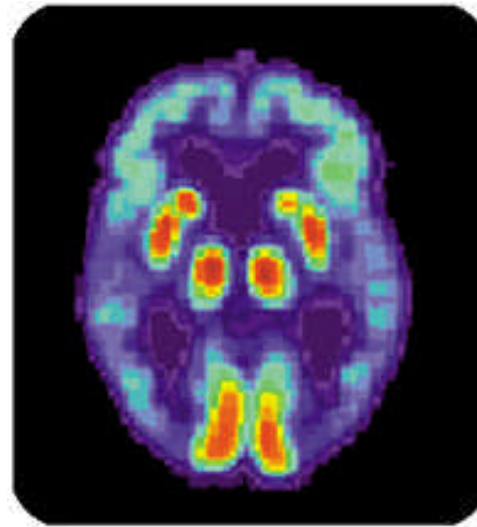
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Changes in the Brain:

Brain shrinkage:



Normal Brain



Brain with AD



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The Affects of Alzheimer's Disease and related Dementias:

- Changes in Mental Abilities
- Changes in Emotion and Mood
- Changes in Behaviour
- Changes in Physical Abilities



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What is Vascular Dementia?

- It is dementia associated with problems in the circulation of blood in the brain.
- Transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) ...or mini strokes...may proceed Vascular Dementia.
- It is generally irreversible.
- Impairment experienced is related to the area of the brain that is damaged.



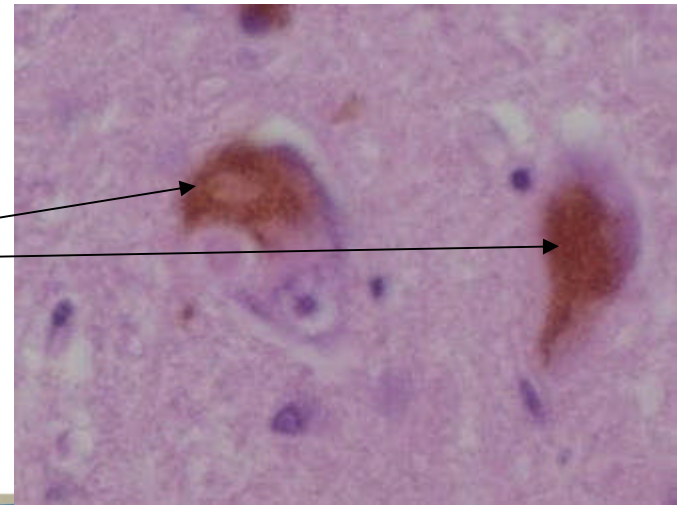
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What is Lewy Body Dementia?

- Changes in the brain are called “Lewy bodies” that consist of protein deposits found in deteriorating nerve cells.
- Marked by fluctuating cognitive ability.
- Is often accompanied by visual hallucinations.

Lewy bodies



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What is Fronto temporal Dementia?

- Brain cells in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain either shrink and die or swell.
- Fronto temporal dementia is characterized by progressive deterioration of social skills and changes in behaviour along with impairment of intellect, language and memory.



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