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# Dementia and Dementia Care

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## Prion disease – The last diagnosis

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A 73-year-old lady was referred to a neurologist after two geriatric consults due to deteriorating cognitive function, ataxia and weakness. She was completely dependent in slightly over one year. From walking with a frame, she became wheelchair bound. Her cognition continued to decline and could not feed herself due to apraxia. When assessed she was found to have rigidity, myoclonus and left-right disorientation. Overall impression was that she had prominent extrapyramidal and cortical disease.

**Diagnosis:** Due to rapid symptoms progression, typical MRI brain findings and highly specific CSF 14-3-3, S100B and RT-QuIC, she was diagnosed with probable sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (sCJD). Brain biopsy post-mortem would confirm the diagnosis.

**Discussion:** sCJD has unclear mechanism of initial conformational change of prion protein. CJD has worldwide distribution, where 85% are sCJD and occurs at rate of 1 in 1,000,000 population per year. Mortality rate is less than 1 per million depending on country. Researchers mention difficulties in ascertaining accurate incidence, prevalence and mortality rate due to under-reporting, under-awareness and poor diagnostic capability. Possibly CJD is higher than thought due to misdiagnosis

## Biography

## Notes: