



Mental Disorder: An Overview of Alzheimer’s Disease and Its Impact on Dementia

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Abstract

Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is a chronic neurodegenerative disorder that represents the leading cause of dementia, accounting for 60% to 70% of cases. This review article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Alzheimer’s disease, detailing its pathology, progression, symptoms, diagnosis, and current treatment options. Additionally, the impact of Alzheimer’s on individuals, families, and healthcare systems is examined, highlighting the need for continued research and improved therapeutic strategies.

Keywords: Alzheimer’s disease; Neurodegeneration; Dementia; Amnesia; Biopsychology

Introduction

Alzheimer’s disease, often referred to as Alzheimer’s, is a degenerative disease characterized by a progressive decline in cognitive function. It is named after the German psychiatrist and neuropathologist Alois Alzheimer, who first described it in 1906. The disease is characterized by the presence of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in the brain, leading to the death of neurons and the subsequent loss of memory and other cognitive abilities [1].

Pathophysiology

Alzheimer’s disease is a complex disorder with a multifactorial pathophysiology. The primary pathological features are the accumulation of amyloid-beta (Aβ) plaques and neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs) composed of hyperphosphorylated tau protein. These pathological changes lead to neuronal dysfunction and cell death, particularly in the hippocampus and cerebral cortex. The resulting loss of neurons and synaptic connections contributes to the cognitive decline observed in the disease. Additionally, other factors such as neuroinflammation, oxidative stress, and genetic predisposition are believed to play roles in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease.

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