Alzheimer's Disease Risk Is Multifactorial

Genetic factors^{1,2}

- ApoE
- TREM2
- APP, PS1, PS2
- Other genes

Other Factors

- Cardiovascular risk factors: diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, obesity
- Infections
- Immune system
- Other comorbid conditions

Toxic Aβ peptides

Neurofibrillary tangles

Neuronal loss

Alzheimer's disease

Lifestyle factors

- Alcohol misuse
- Physical inactivity
- Lack of cognitive activity
- Poor diet

Environmental factors¹

- Air pollution
- Geographic location
- Heavy metal exposure
- Occupation
- Traumatic brain injury

Demographic factors²

- **Age** (age-specific AD prevalence)³
 - Age 65-74: 5.3%
 - Age 75-85: 13.8%
 - > age 85: 34.6%
- Gender: females higher risk
- Ethnicity and race

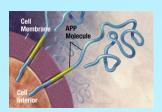
ApoE, apolipoprotein E; TREM2, triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2; APP, amyloid precursor protein; PS1, presenilin 1; PS2, presenilin 2.

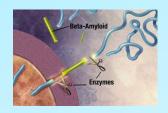
- 1. Armstrong R. Folia Neuropathol. 2019;57:87-105; 2. Kamboh MI. Neurotherapeutics. 2022;19:152-172;
- 3. 2021 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. Alzheimers Dement. 2021;17:327-406.

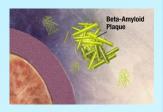
Alzheimer's Disease Has a High Heritability Caused by a Combination of Genes

Disease-causing gene

- A single mutation causes the disease
- Deterministic genes, autosomal dominant
- APP, PS1, and PS2 cause early-onset Alzheimer's disease (EOAD, disease before age 60 to 65)







Images: National Institute on Aging, public domain

Mutations in APP or gamma-secretase complex (PS1 or PS2) increase amyloid production

- 1st-degree relatives have a 50% risk
- Predictive testing offered to relatives of affected people

Disease-association gene

- Three common variants/alleles of the ApoE gene:
 - ApoE2: reduces risk
 - ApoE3: most common, used for comparison
 - ApoE4: increases risk
- More than 80 AD-associated genes have been identified in non-Hispanic White populations^{1,2}
- Late-onset Alzheimer's disease heritability is high and is estimated to be between 58%-79%, depending on the age of onset³
- Susceptibility testing

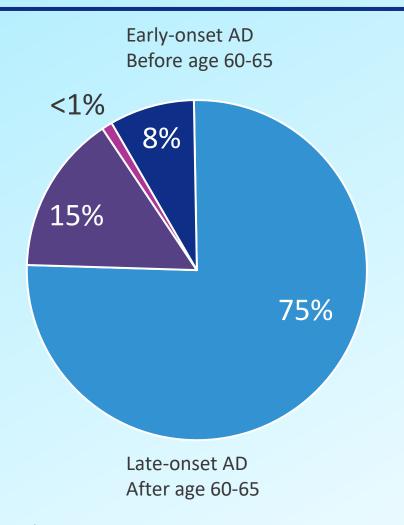
Genetic Variants Contribute to Both Early-Onset and Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease

Early-onset familial AD (<1%)

- Autosomal dominant
- Deterministic genes
- APP, PS1, or PS2

Late-onset familial AD (15%)

- 2 or more cases in a family
- Multiple susceptibility genes



Early-onset AD (8%)

 Familial (recessive genes) or sporadic

Sporadic late-onset AD (75%)

Multiple susceptibility genes

APP, amyloid precursor protein; PS1, presenilin 1; PS2, presenilin 2.

Bird TD. Alzheimer disease overview. 1998 Oct 23 [Updated 2018 Dec 20]. In: Adam MP, Mirzaa GM, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1161/