

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS A PSYCHIATRIC, NOT A NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER? NO

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It might be difficult, at a theoretical level, to precisely separate psychiatric from neurological disorders. However, one might argue that brain lesions are present only in neurological diseases, that mental symptoms are different from focal neurological signs or that pathogenic mechanisms are distinct in the two disorder categories. However, at a careful analysis, there seems to be a considerable overlap. In this debate, I consider some basic features of Alzheimer's disease, such as brain atrophy, protein aggregation, synapse alteration, neuronal loss, oxidative stress, neurotransmitter deficit, intracellular calcium dyshomeostasis and mitochondrial dysfunction and I try to search whether these features are common for psychiatric or for neurological conditions.