

The term "Alzheimer's disease" should be dropped as it is impeding future research.

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Most early-onset cases are familial due to dominant mutations in a few genes. Late onset dementia has a similar pathology to the early onset disease, but does not have the same genetic background. In fact, it is a multifactorial disorder. The amyloid deposition in EOAD is due to overproduction, and all those who carry the mutation will accumulate amyloid and develop dementia. In the late-onset disease, amyloid is not overproduced but rather its clearance is reduced. There is no proof that amyloid is toxic in the late disease, and its removal has not led to clinical improvement. Thus calling senile dementia "AD" has been counterproductive.