

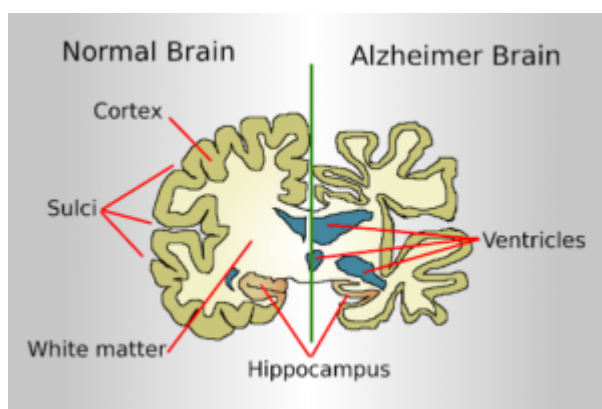
# Alzheimer's disease

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**In news**— A new study has found that older adults who were once infected with Covid-19 are at a much higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease within a year.

## **What is Alzheimer's disease?**

- Alzheimer's disease is **a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills** and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks.
- The **disease is named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer**. In 1906, Dr. Alzheimer noticed changes in the brain tissue of a woman who had died of an unusual mental illness.
- It is a neurodegenerative disease that usually starts slowly and progressively worsens. It is the cause of 60–70% of cases of dementia.
- The most common early symptom is difficulty in remembering recent events.
- In most people with the disease – those with the late-onset type symptoms first appear in their mid-60s.
- Early-onset Alzheimer's occurs between a person's 30s and mid-60s and is very rare. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia among older adults.



- As the disease advances, symptoms can include problems with language, disorientation (including easily getting lost), mood swings, loss of motivation, self-neglect,

and behavioral issues.

- The cause of Alzheimer's disease is poorly understood. There are many environmental and genetic risk factors associated with its development. The strongest genetic risk factor is from an allele of APOE.
- Other risk factors include a history of head injury, clinical depression, and high blood pressure.
- The disease process is largely associated with amyloid plaques, neurofibrillary tangles, and loss of neuronal connections in the brain.
- A probable diagnosis is based on the history of the illness and cognitive testing with medical imaging and blood tests to rule out other possible causes.