

Alzheimer's disease—a spirochetosis? [Lyme disease]

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Alzheimer's disease—a spirochetosis?

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The aetiology of Alzheimer's disease (AD), which affects a large proportion of the aged population is unknown and the treatment unresolved. The role of beta amyloid protein (β A4), derived from a larger amyloid precursor protein (APP) in AD is the subject of intense research. Here I report observations that in 14 autopsy cases, with histopathologically confirmed AD, spirochetes were found in blood and cerebrospinal fluid and, moreover, could be isolated from brain tissue.

Thirteen age-matched control cases were without spirochetes. Reference strains of spirochetes and those isolated from brains of AD patients, showed positive immunoreaction with monoclonal antibody against the β amyloid precursor protein. These observations suggest that spirochetes may be one of the causes of AD and that they may be the source of the β amyloid deposited in the AD brain.