

# Alzheimer Society

C A N A D A

## **Limbic-predominant aged-related TDP-43 encephalopathy (LATE-NC) – a newly identified form of dementia**

According to a study published in *Brain*, a Journal of Neurology, on April 30, 2019, researchers have linked a protein called TDP-43 to a newly identified form of dementia: **Limbic-predominant age-related TDP-43 encephalopathy (LATE-NC)**.

When TDP-43 accumulates in an area located in the mid-brain known as the limbic system, it affects learning, memory and emotion, resembling symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. This suggests that people may exhibit symptoms mirroring those of Alzheimer's but may not involve the same changes to the brain caused by the disease.

Currently, LATE-NC is not diagnosable with standard tests. Because people are typically diagnosed with certain types of dementia based on the symptoms they experience, LATE-NC will not be easily distinguished from Alzheimer's due to overlapping symptoms.

Further research is required to improve diagnosis in identifying the different diseases that can lead to dementia, including LATE-NC. Investigators are currently trying to understand how to identify and diagnose LATE-NC clinically.

The discovery of LATE-NC speaks to the growing umbrella of different dementias and the complexity of these diseases. The Alzheimer Society is hopeful that these new findings will pave the way to new treatments that target different forms of dementia.