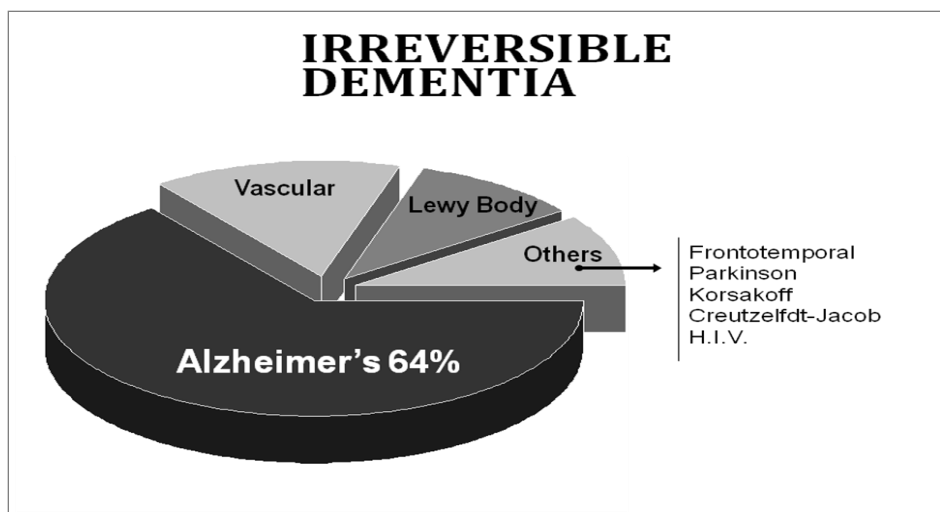


ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

	What is Dementia? A medical term	
C A U S E S	<i>Alzheimer's Disease</i>	<i>Vascular (Multi-infarct) Dementia</i>
	<i>Lewy Body Disease</i>	<i>Frontotemporal Dementia</i> <i>Other</i>
S Y M P T O M S	BRAIN DAMAGE <i>Death of brain cells & impaired function of remaining cells</i>	
	DEMENTIA <i>A cluster of symptoms related to a decline in cognitive abilities</i>	



Alzheimer Society of BC Provincial Office

300 - 828 West 8th Ave.

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www.alzheimerbc.org

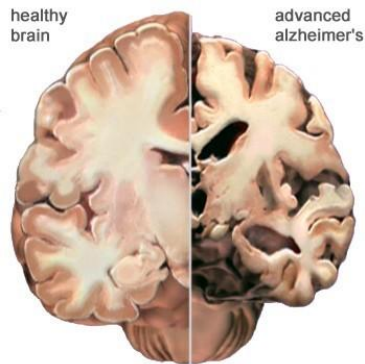
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February 2012

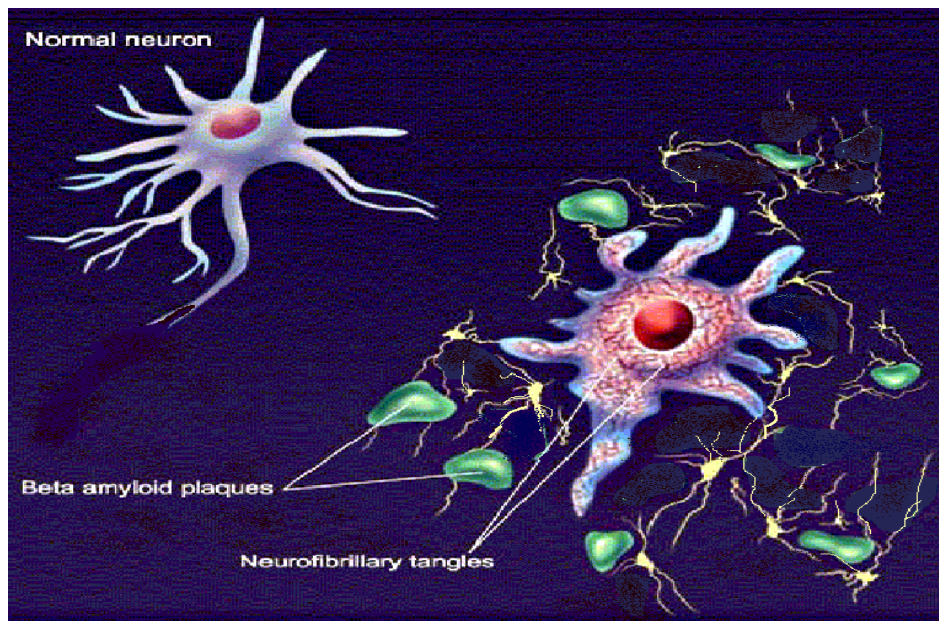
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Brain damage due to advanced Alzheimer's disease is visible on the right side of this image.

Alzheimer's disease leads to the death of nerve cells in the brain. As the disease progresses, these changes in the brain cause the symptoms of dementia.

Dementia is not a normal part of aging.



The hallmark of Alzheimer's disease is the accumulation of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. The **plaques** are located between nerve cells (neurons) in the brain and form hard, insoluble deposits that become toxic to brain cells at excessive levels, disrupting normal functioning. The **tangles** are twisted fibres that are found inside the brain's cells and consist primarily of a protein called tau. In Alzheimer's disease, the tau protein is abnormal, and the brain cells are impaired in their ability to send or receive messages.

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