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## Alzheimer's disease: A challenge for new century

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The cause of Alzheimer's disease is poorly understood. About 70% of the risk is believed to be genetic with many genes usually involved. Other risk factors include a history of head injuries, depression or hypertension. The disease process is associated with plaques and tangles in the brain. The brain maintains high levels of ascorbic acid (AA) despite a concentration gradient favoring diffusion from brain to plasma. Although Alzheimer's disease is considered to be a degenerative brain disease, it is clear that the immune system has an important role in the disease process. New immunotherapies using humoral and cell based approaches are currently being investigated for the treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

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