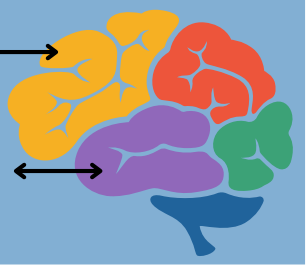
FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Features	Frontotemporal Dementia	Alzheimer's Disease
Age of which disease generally occurs	• Common between 40 and 70 years old ("early-onset")	• Common in later life (>75 years old)
Brain areas affected	Frontal Lobe Temporal Lobe 	• Starts in the medial temporal area, usually in the hippocampus • Spreads to other areas of the brain
Pathological features	• Loss of nerve cells • No amyloid plaques • Tau protein tangles seen in certain FTDs, but different from AD tangles	• Loss of nerve cells • Amyloid plaques • Tau tangles
Clinical features	• Varying personality and behavior changes, from apathy to hyperactivity including any or all of below • Loss of empathy toward others; lack of proper social conduct • Memory is often preserved early on • Language difficulty • Compulsive eating and oral fixations • Repetitive actions	• Often begins with memory loss • Loss of ability to learn new information • Inability to orient oneself to time and place • Later, personality and behavior problems may develop • Possible hallucinations and delusions in later stages

University of Pennsylvania | Penn Frontotemporal Degeneration Center
www.pennftdcenter.org | PennFTDC@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

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