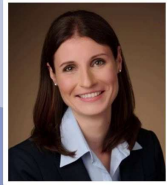




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The Blood-Brain Barrier in Alzheimer's Disease



Dr. Anika Hartz
Associate Professor
University of Kentucky
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging

1

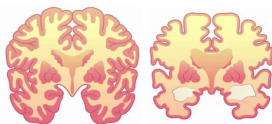
Outline

1. The blood-brain barrier

- Discovery blood-brain barrier
- Anatomy of the blood-brain barrier
- Blood-brain barrier function

2. Alzheimer's disease

- Discovery of Alzheimer's disease
- Alzheimer's disease: numbers and facts
- Alzheimer's disease pathology
- Diagnosis, prognosis and treatment



3. The blood-brain barrier in AZ disease

- Cerebral blood flow
 - The vascular hypothesis
 - Blood vessel distortion
- Glucose transport across the blood-brain barrier
 - Glucose transport – fuel for the brain
 - Bioenergetic shift in Alzheimer's disease
- A β Clearance across the blood-brain barrier
 - The vascular clearance hypothesis
 - A β transport across the barrier: P-gp, LRP & RAGE
- Blood-brain barrier leakage
 - Barrier leakage - the phenomenon
 - Signaling pathways and contributing factors

4. Blood-brain barrier repair

5. Summary

2

The blood-brain barrier

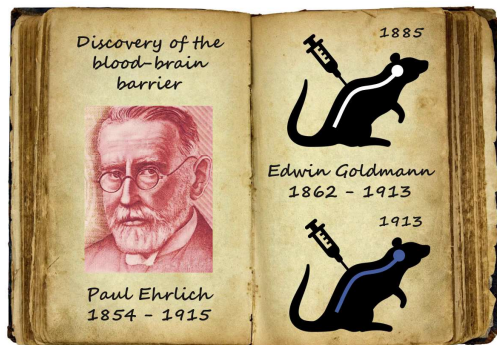


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Blood-brain barrier – discovery

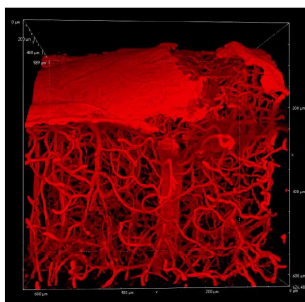


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Blood-brain barrier – discovery

- Confirmed hypothesis that there is a barrier between the central nervous system and the periphery
- Provided evidence of compartments and a barrier between the brain and periphery
- Paul Ehrlich awarded Nobel Prize in 1908
- These experiments were the beginning of blood-brain barrier research
- The term 'Blood-brain barrier' was introduced in 1921

Capillaries of the blood-brain barrier



- Capillaries 5-7 microns in diameter
- Equipped with enzymes, receptor signaling molecules and transporters
- Protect and nurture the brain and remove waste
- Connected to astrocytes, pericytes and neurons
- Allows communication between the central nervous system and the periphery
- In Alzheimer's disease, changes in the blood-brain barrier contribute to disease pathology

5



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Neurovascular unit – anatomy

Astrocytes

Neurons

Pericytes

Endothelial cells

6

Custom-designed illustration by Rick Kollath, graphic designer, Duluth, MN, USA

Neurovascular unit – function

Active barrier
Active blood-brain barrier function is based on the interplay between efflux and influx transporters & metabolizing enzymes

Immunological barrier
Immune cells can migrate into the brain by paracellular or transcellular transmigration

Endothelial cells
Form brain capillaries that comprise the blood-brain barrier

Tight junctions
Seal neighboring endothelial cells to form a passive, physical barrier that restricts free diffusion of molecules into and out of the brain

Brain side

Blood side

7

Custom-designed illustration by Rick Kollath, graphic designer, Duluth, MN, USA

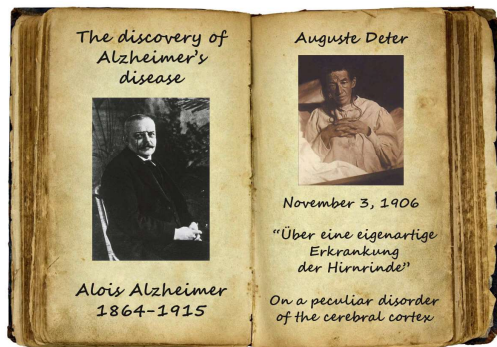
Alzheimer’s disease

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Alzheimer's disease – discovery



Alzheimer (1906) Neurologisches Centralblatt, 25:1134
Alzheimer (1907) Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie und Psychisch-gerichtliche Medizin, 64:146-48

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Alzheimer's disease – discovery

- Auguste started showing signs of memory loss, trouble sleeping and problems with language and writing when she was in her early 50's
- Her symptoms were characteristic of dementia, but she was very young
- She was originally diagnosed with presenile dementia
- Auguste's brain was found to contain senile plaques and tangles
- This disease was later named **Alzheimer's disease**

Alzheimer (1906) Neurologisches Centralblatt, 25:1134
Alzheimer (1907) Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie und Psychisch-gerichtliche Medizin, 64:146-48

Alzheimer's disease – numbers and facts

Dementia



Loss of cognitive function



Problem solving



Tension and memory



Visual perception



Communication



Self management

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Alzheimer’s disease – numbers and facts

Alzheimer’s disease


- Most common type of dementia
- Irreversible and progressive
- 4th leading cause of death amongst elderly in developed nations
- 11% of diagnoses in people over 65 years old
- 50% of diagnoses over 85 years old
- 250 million patients expected in 2050 worldwide
- Early onset initiates between the ages of 30 and 60 and is often associated with genetic mutations
- Late onset (90% of patients) initiates after the age of 60 and is associated with numerous environmental and lifestyle-based factors

Alzheimer’s disease – numbers and facts


Alzheimer’s disease – early symptoms




Decline in cognitive abilities




Mood swings



Agitation and anxiety




Sleep disturbances




Loss of appetite

Alzheimer’s disease – numbers and facts


Alzheimer’s disease – later symptoms




Personality changes




Memory loss




Impaired spatial awareness




Impaired movement




Impaired planning skills




Speech problems



Lack of insight



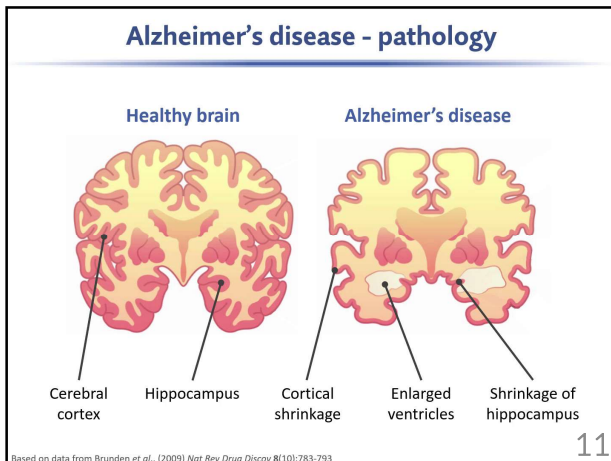
Problems with recognition

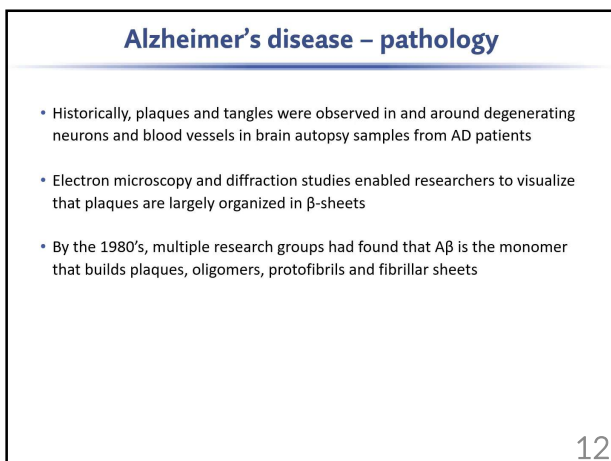


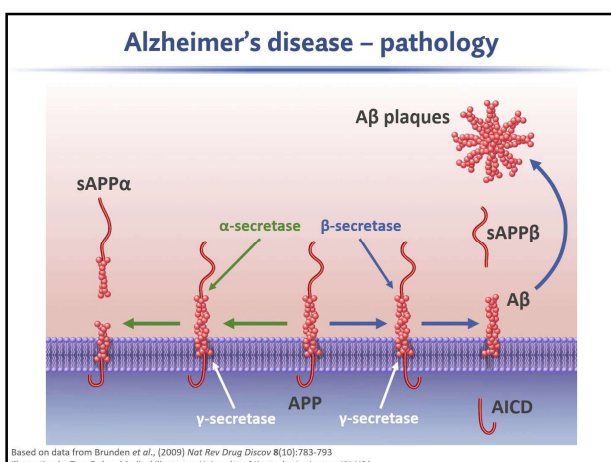
Delusions and hallucinations



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Alzheimer’s disease - pathology

HEALTHY NEURON

Microtubule
Tau proteins

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Neurofibrillary tangles
The microtubules disintegrate

Neurofibrillary tangles are composed of paired helical filaments that contain the microtubule-associated protein 'tau' (50 kDa)

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Alzheimer’s disease - pathology

HEALTHY NEURON

Microtubule
Tau proteins

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Neurofibrillary tangles
The microtubules disintegrate

Tau is abnormally phosphorylated and forms tau oligomers and granular tau aggregates which accumulate in the brains of AD patients

Alzheimer’s disease - pathology

HEALTHY NEURON

Microtubule
Tau proteins

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Neurofibrillary tangles
The microtubules disintegrate

Tau peptides are composed of 31-32 amino acids, with 2-3 phosphate molecules per peptide



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Alzheimer’s disease - pathology

HEALTHY NEURON

Microtubule
Tau proteins

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Neurofibrillary tangles
The microtubules disintegrate

Tau peptides are maintained by tau-specific kinases and phosphatases in the brain

Brunden et al., (2009) Nat Rev Drug Discov 8(10):783-793

Alzheimer’s disease - pathology

HEALTHY NEURON

Microtubule
Tau proteins

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Neurofibrillary tangles
The microtubules disintegrate

In AD, the levels of abnormally phosphorylated tau protein can be 4-8 fold higher than physiological tau levels in the brain

Brunden et al., (2009) Nat Rev Drug Discov 8(10):783-793

Alzheimer’s disease - pathology

HEALTHY NEURON

Microtubule
Tau proteins

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Neurofibrillary tangles
The microtubules disintegrate

Accumulation of A β and tau in the brain causes pathophysiological changes that affect cognitive function

Brunden et al., (2009) Nat Rev Drug Discov 8(10):783-793



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Diagnosis, prognosis and treatment

Cognitive tests

Symptoms worsen over time

Imaging

Disease progression varies by patient

Lab assays

On average patients live 4-8 years after diagnosis

Post mortem

No cure

- Clinical symptoms
- Neuropathological markers
- Plaques and tangles

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Diagnosis, prognosis and treatment

- 5 areas of drug development: neurotransmitters, A β pathology, neuroinflammation, tau pathology and cholesterol

Diagnosis, prognosis and treatment


- 5 areas of drug development: neurotransmitters, A β pathology, neuroinflammation, tau pathology and cholesterol
- There are currently only 4 FDA approved drugs available – all target synaptic activity

- Donepezil, Galantamine and Stigmine (cholinesterase inhibitors), Memantine (MDA receptor blocker)
- Modest effects. Lower symptoms in 40-70% patients
- Improvement subsides after 6-12 months of use
- Current approved drugs have no effect on the underlying pathophysiological causes of AD
- Experimental drugs that have a disease modifying effect show no significant improvement in cognition



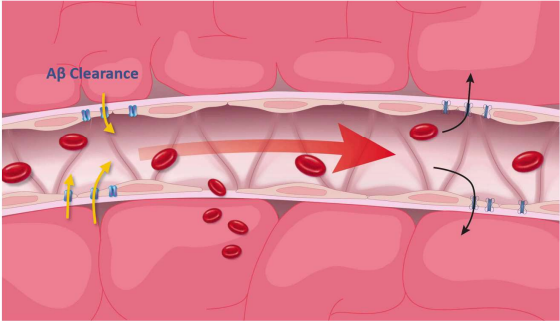
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The blood-brain barrier in AD



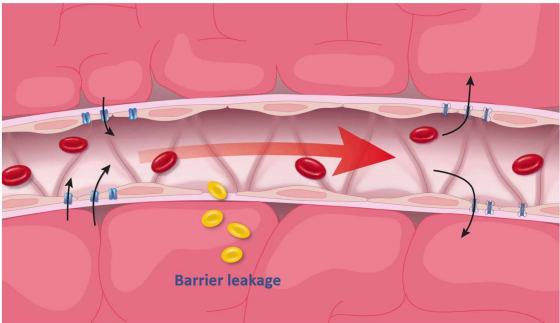
15

The blood-brain barrier in AD



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The blood-brain barrier in AD





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The blood-brain barrier in AD

Glucose transport

Illustration by Tom Dolan, Medical Illustrator, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

The blood-brain barrier in AD

25% reduction in cerebral blood flow in AD

Cerebral blood flow

Illustration by Tom Dolan, Medical Illustrator, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

The vascular hypothesis

“Alzheimer’s disease is a vascular disorder with neurodegenerative consequences”

Artery

Capillaries

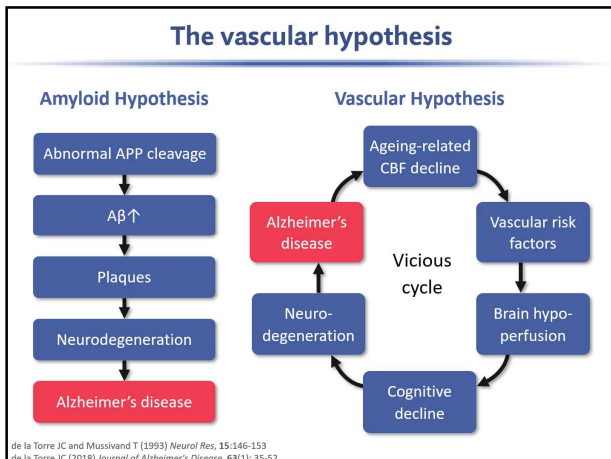
Vein

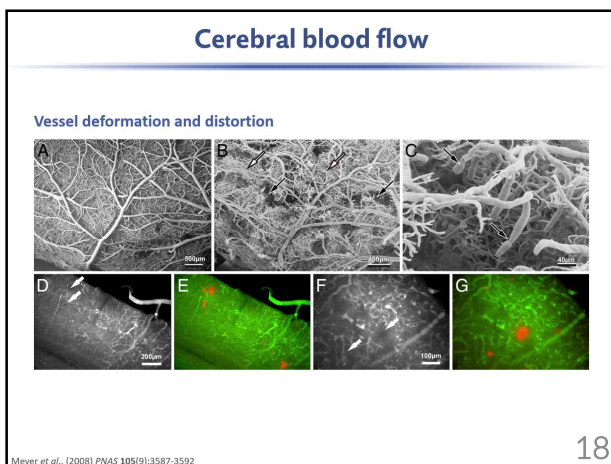
de la Torre JC and Mussivand T (1993) *Neurof Res*, 15:146-153
de la Torre JC (2018) *Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease*, 63(1): 35-52

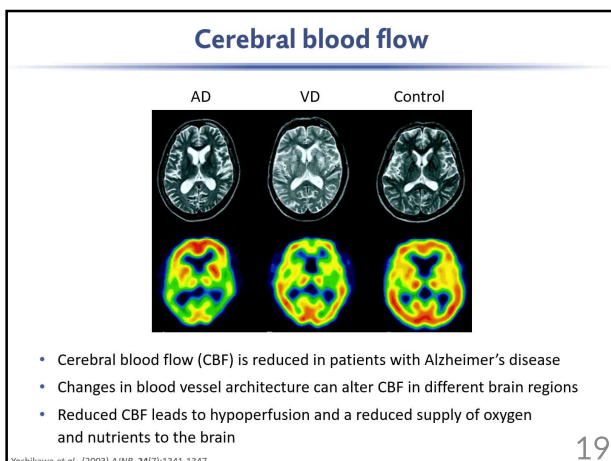
17



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The blood-brain barrier in AD

Glucose transport

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Illustration by Tom Dolan, Medical Illustrator, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

Glucose transport – fuel for the brain

GLUT-1

Glucose

21

Glucose transport – fuel for the brain

luminal

abluminal

5µm

Reduced GLUT-1 expression

	WT	hAPP
GLUT-1		
β-Actin		

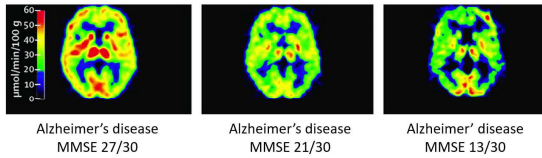
Hartz et al., unpublished data
Harik et al., (1992) *Can J Physiol Pharmacol*, 70: 5113-117
Horwood and Davies (1994) *Virchows Arch*, 425(1):69-72
Moore et al., (1997) *Neurobiol Aging*, 18(5):469-474
Winblad et al., (2016) *The Lancet Neurology* 15(5):455-532



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Glucose transport – fuel for the brain

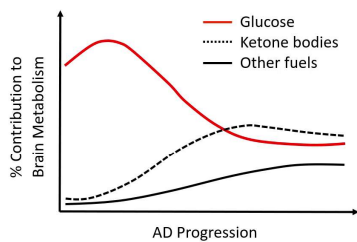
Reduced glucose metabolism



Regional cerebral glucose metabolism is significantly reduced during the progression of Alzheimer's disease compared with healthy participants

Hartz et al., unpublished data
Harik et al., (1992) *Can J Physiol Pharmacol*, 70: 5113-117
Horwood and Davies (1994) *Virchows Arch*, 425(1):69-72
Mooradian et al., (1997) *Neurobiol Aging*, 18(5):469-474
Winblad et al., (2016) *The Lancet Neurology*, 15(5):455-532

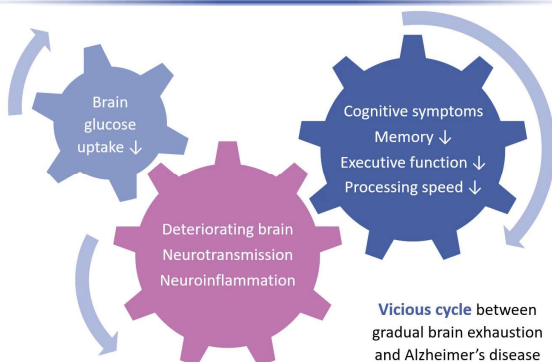
Glucose transport



- There is a bioenergetic shift towards the use of alternate fuels in AD
- Insulin resistance may promote this development
- What causes this shift? Is it an inherited defect? Is it caused by amyloid or tau?
- How do diseases of systemic metabolic dysfunction affect disease progression?

Modified from Neth and Craft (2017) *Front Aging Neurosci*, 9:345

Glucose transport



Vicious cycle between gradual brain exhaustion and Alzheimer's disease

Modified from Cunnane et al., (2016) *Front Mol Neurosci* 9:53



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The blood-brain barrier in AD

Illustration by Tom Dolan, Medical Illustrator, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

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Aβ clearance

Lam et al., (2001) *J Neurochem* 76(4):1121-1128
Vogelgesang et al., (2002) *Pharmacogenetics* 12(7):535-541
Vogelgesang et al., (2004) *Curr Alzheimer Res* 1:121-125
Cirrito et al., (2005) *J Clin Invest* 115(11):3285-3290
Kühnke et al., (2007) *Brain Pathol* 17(4):347-353
Wijesuriya et al., (2010) *Brain Res* 1358(2):228-238
Jeynes and Proviat (2011) *Neurosci Lett* 487(3):389-393
Van Assema et al., (2012) *Brain* 135:181-189
Mehta et al., (2013) *Pharm Res* 30(11):2868-2879
Deo et al., (2014) *J Nucl Med* 1106-1111
Carrano et al., (2014) *Neurobiol Aging* 565-575
Brückmann et al., (2017) *Curr Alzheimer Res* 14(6):656-667

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Aβ clearance

UK-ADC Tissue Bank		
n=10/group	CNI	AD
Age at Death [y]	86 ± 3.8	85 ± 2.6
PMI [h]	2.4 ± 0.8	2.8 ± 0.8
Braak	1.3 ± 0.3	5.3 ± 0.3
Final MMSE	29 ± 1.2	18 ± 7.3

P-gp

β-actin

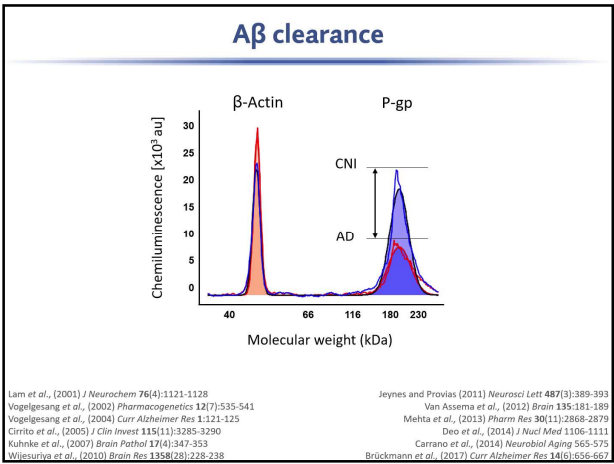
- Simple western assay determines the P-gp levels found in isolated human capillaries
- Decreased P-gp levels found in capillaries of AD patients
- Protein quantification 10x higher sensitivity compared to western blot

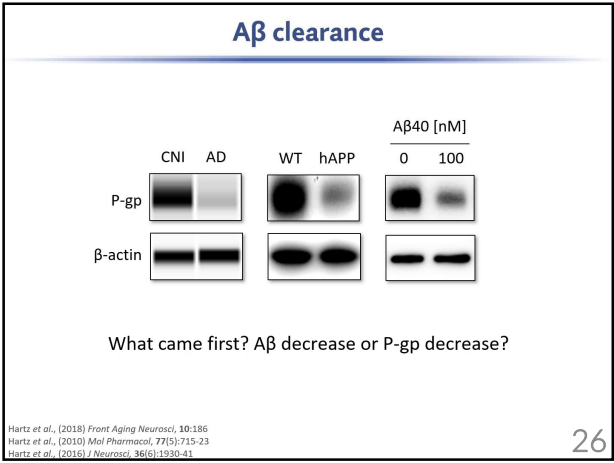
Lam et al., (2001) *J Neurochem* 76(4):1121-1128
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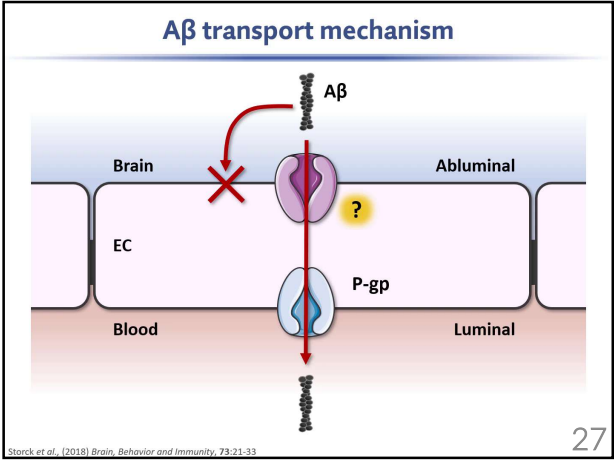
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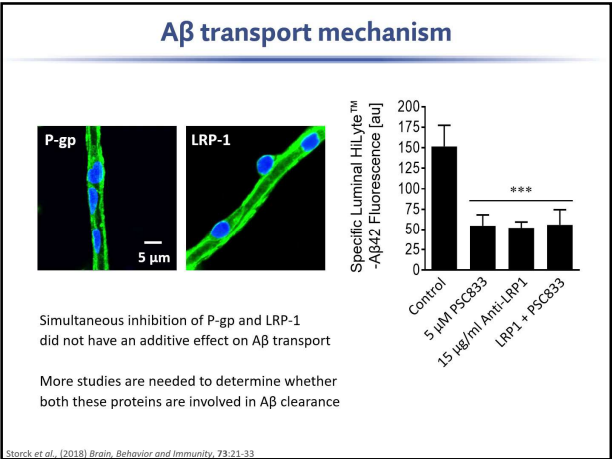


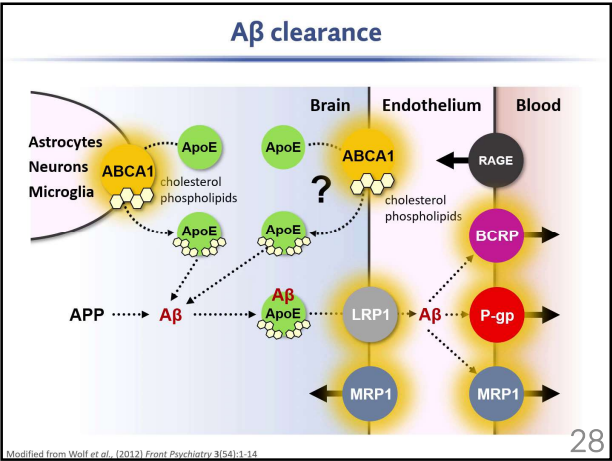


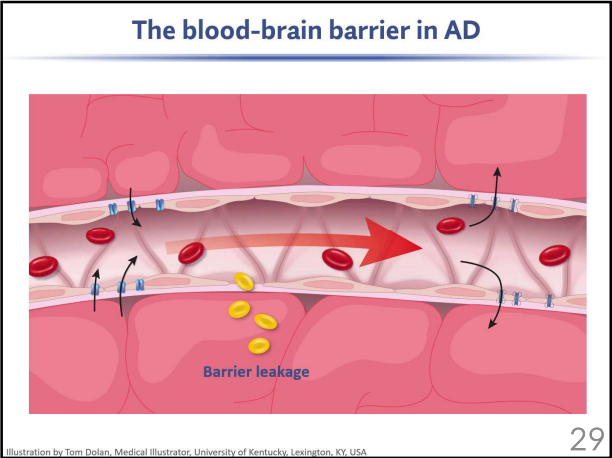




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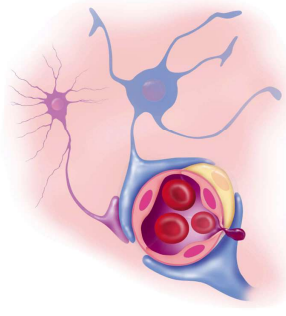






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Blood-brain barrier leakage



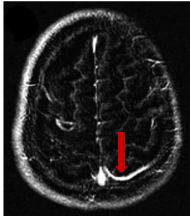
- Blood-brain barrier leakage is well documented in patients with cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA)
- CAA is present in more than 80% of Alzheimer's disease patients
- CAA is a likely contributing factor to Alzheimer's disease pathology
- Significant Aβ build-up in capillaries

Hartz et al., unpublished data
Hartz et al., (2012) *Stroke*, 43(2):514-523
Modified from Rempel et al., (2016) *JCRFM*, 36(9):1481-1508; illustration by Tom Dolan, Medical Illustrator, University of Kentucky

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Blood-brain barrier leakage

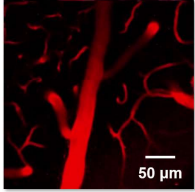
	WT	hAPP
ZO-1		
Occludin		
Claudin-1		
Claudin-5		
MMP2		
MMP9		
β-actin		



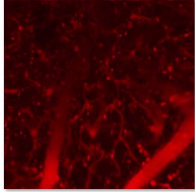
Hartz et al., unpublished data
Hartz et al., (2012) *Stroke*, 43(2):514-523
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Blood-brain barrier leakage

Intact vessels



Barrier leakage



Hartz et al., unpublished data
Hartz et al., (2012) *Stroke*, 43(2):514-523
Modified from Rempel et al., (2016) *JCRFM*, 36(9):1481-1508; illustration by Tom Dolan, Medical Illustrator, University of Kentucky



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Blood-brain barrier leakage

Barrier Leakage	Methods	Reference
Fibrinogen	IHC	Hultman et al., (2013) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 33 (8):1251-1258
	IHC	Ryu et al., (2009) <i>J Cell Mol Med</i> , 13 (9A):2911-2925
	SEM; ELISA	Cortes-Canteli et al., (2010) <i>Neuron</i> , 66 (5):695-709
	ELISA	Miners et al., (2018) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 38 (1):103-115
	IF	Sengillo et al., (2013) <i>Brain Pathol</i> , 23 (3):303-310
Prothrombin	IHC, IF, ELISA	Zipser et al., (2007) <i>Neurobiol Aging</i> , 28 (7):977-986
Albumin	IHC	Wisniewski et al., (1982) <i>Ann N Y Acad Sci</i> , 396 :119-129
IgG	IF	Halliday et al., (2016) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 36 (1):216-227
	IHC	Ryu et al., (2009) <i>J Cell Mol Med</i> , 13 (9A):2911-2925
Hemosiderin	IHC	Cullen et al., (2005) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 25 (12):1656-1667
Red blood cells	Auto-Fluorescence	Cullen et al., (2005) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 25 (12):1656-1667
Contrast agent (gadolinium)	MRI	van de Haar et al., (2016) <i>Radiology</i> , 281 (2):527-535 (CNI: n=17; AD: n=16)
	MRI	van de Haar et al., (2016) <i>Neurobiol Aging</i> , 45 :190-196 (CNI: n=16; AD: n=14)
	MRI	van de Haar et al., (2017) <i>Med Phys</i> , 44 (8):4112-4125 (CNI: n=17; AD: n=16)

Early findings were based on the detection of plasma proteins in Alzheimer's disease brains, suggesting protein extravasation through a leaky barrier

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Blood-brain barrier leakage

Barrier Leakage	Methods	Reference
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Fibrinogen is a soluble glycoprotein complex that circulates in the blood. During vascular injury, it is converted to fibrin and forms clots

Blood-brain barrier leakage

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In AD, fibrinogen levels increase in the blood and create large unregulated clots, inducing oxidative stress and inflammation



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Blood-brain barrier leakage

Barrier Leakage	Methods	Reference
Fibrinogen	IHC	Hultman et al., (2013) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 33 (8):1251-1258
	IHC	Ryu et al., (2009) <i>J Cell Mol Med</i> , 13 (9A):2911-2925
	SEM; ELISA	Cortes-Cantelli et al., (2010) <i>Neuron</i> , 66 (5):695-709
	ELISA	Miners et al., (2018) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 38 (1):103-115
	IF	Sengillo et al., (2013) <i>Brain Pathol</i> , 23 (3):303-310
Prothrombin	IHC, IF, ELISA	Zipser et al., (2007) <i>Neurobiol Aging</i> , 28 (7):977-986
Albumin	IHC	Wisniewski et al., (1982) <i>Ann N Y Acad Sci</i> , 396 :119-129
IgG	IF	Halliday et al., (2016) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 36 (1):216-227
	IHC	Ryu et al., (2009) <i>J Cell Mol Med</i> , 13 (9A):2911-2925
Hemosiderin	IHC	Cullen et al., (2005) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 25 (12):1656-1667
Red blood cells	Auto-Fluorescence	Cullen et al., (2005) <i>J Cereb Blood Flow Metab</i> , 25 (12):1656-1667
Contrast agent (gadolinium)	MRI	van de Haar et al., (2016) <i>Radiology</i> , 281 (2):527-535 (CNI: n=17; AD: n=16)
	MRI	van de Haar et al., (2016) <i>Neurobiol Aging</i> , 45 :190-196 (CNI: n=16; AD: n=14)
	MRI	van de Haar et al., (2017) <i>Med Phys</i> , 44 (8):4112-4125 (CNI: n=17; AD: n=16)

Prothrombin is a blood-borne protein that is converted to thrombin at the onset of coagulation, leading to vascular repair

Blood-brain barrier leakage

Barrier Leakage	Methods	Reference
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95% of prothrombin resides in the blood. Less than 1% is present in the cerebral spinal fluid of healthy individuals

Blood-brain barrier leakage

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Novel imaging techniques can be used to visualize barrier leakage in the brain



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Blood-brain barrier leakage

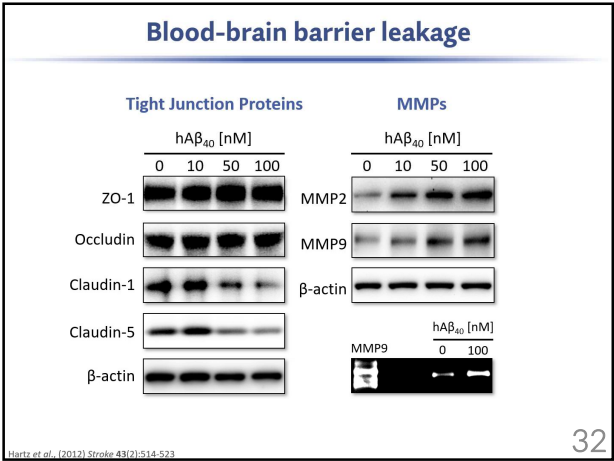
> Radiology. 2016 Nov;281(2):527-535. doi: 10.1148/radiol.2016152244. Epub 2016 May 31.

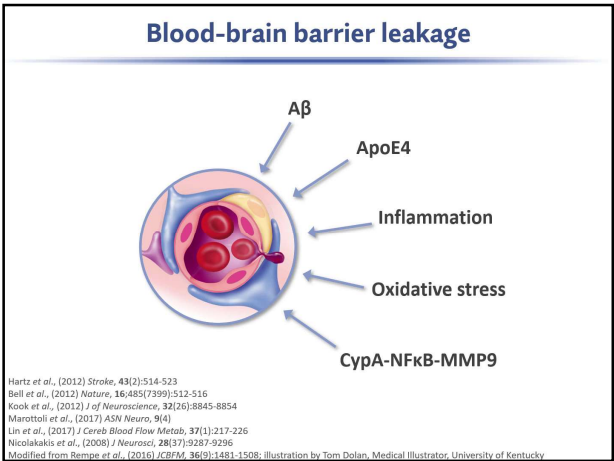
Blood-Brain Barrier Leakage in Patients with Early Alzheimer Disease

Harm J van de Haar¹, Saartje Burgmans¹, Jacobus F A Jansen¹, Matthias J P van Osch¹, Mark A van Buchem¹, Majon Muller¹, Paul A M Hofman¹, Frans R J Verhey¹, Walter H Backes¹

- 5 fold leakage increase in AD compared to control individuals (M and F)
- Evidence of an inverse correlation between barrier leakage and cognition
- In AD, barrier leakage and memory decline may be mechanistically linked

Van de Haar et al., (2016) Radiology 281:527-535







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Summary

Diagram illustrating the blood-brain barrier (BBB) and its components. The diagram shows a cross-section of the BBB with various transporters and processes. Aβ clearance is shown as a process where Aβ is removed from the brain. Glucose transport is shown as a process where glucose is moved from the blood into the brain. Cerebral blood flow is shown as a process where blood flows through the brain. Barrier leakage is shown as a process where substances leak from the blood into the brain.

Illustration by Tom Dolan, Medical Illustrator, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

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Blood-brain barrier repair

Corrects pathophysiological cause	Limited side effects
Reverses cognitive decline	Affordable
Prevents disease onset	Current therapies do not meet these criteria
Effective in most patients	

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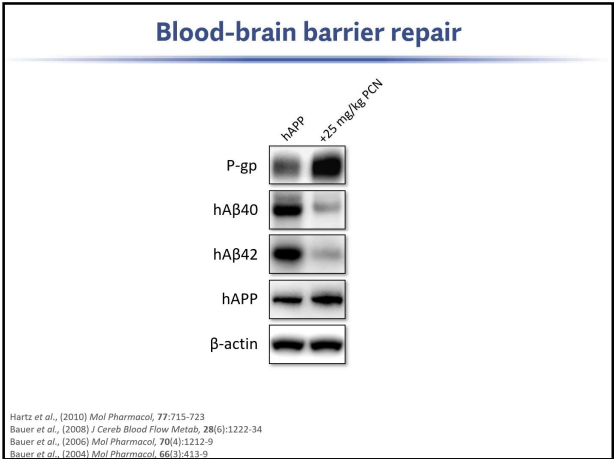
Blood-brain barrier repair

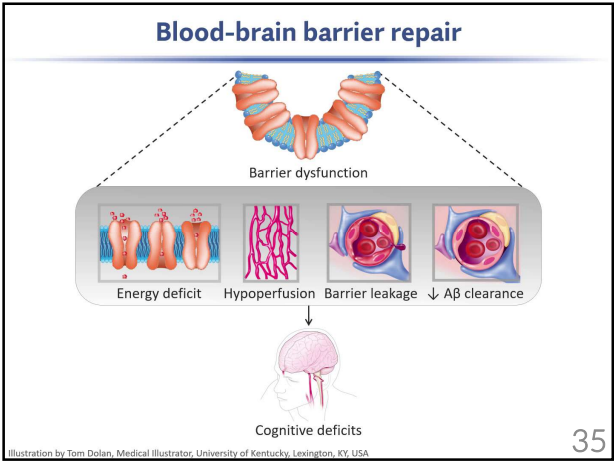
Diagram illustrating the blood-brain barrier (BBB) repair mechanism. The diagram shows a cross-section of the BBB with various components. Aβ is shown as a substance that is being cleared from the brain. EC is shown as the endothelial cell. P-gp is shown as a transporter that is being activated. PXR is shown as a receptor that is being activated. PCN is shown as a substance that is being transported from the blood into the brain.

Hartz et al., (2010) *Mol Pharmacol*, 77:715-723
Bauer et al., (2008) *J Cereb Blood Flow Metab*, 28(6):1222-34
Bauer et al., (2006) *Mol Pharmacol*, 70(4):1212-9
Bauer et al., (2004) *Mol Pharmacol*, 66(3):413-9



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QUJANAQ SHUKRAN FALEMENDERIT³⁶
DANK U TEŞEKKÜRLER KÖSZÖNÖM TACK
TERIMA KASIH DÖJEH MAHALO TAK VINAKA
MERCİ BEAUCOUP GRATIAS TIBI AGO DIOLCH
THANK YOU
GRAZIE TAKK FYRIR DZIĘKI SPASIBO GRACIAS
TÄNKEWOL HVALA DANKE KIITOS
DIAKUJU DANGGE KHÀWP KHUN RAV TODOT
MERSI BLĄGODARYA GMADLOBTH OBRIGADO

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