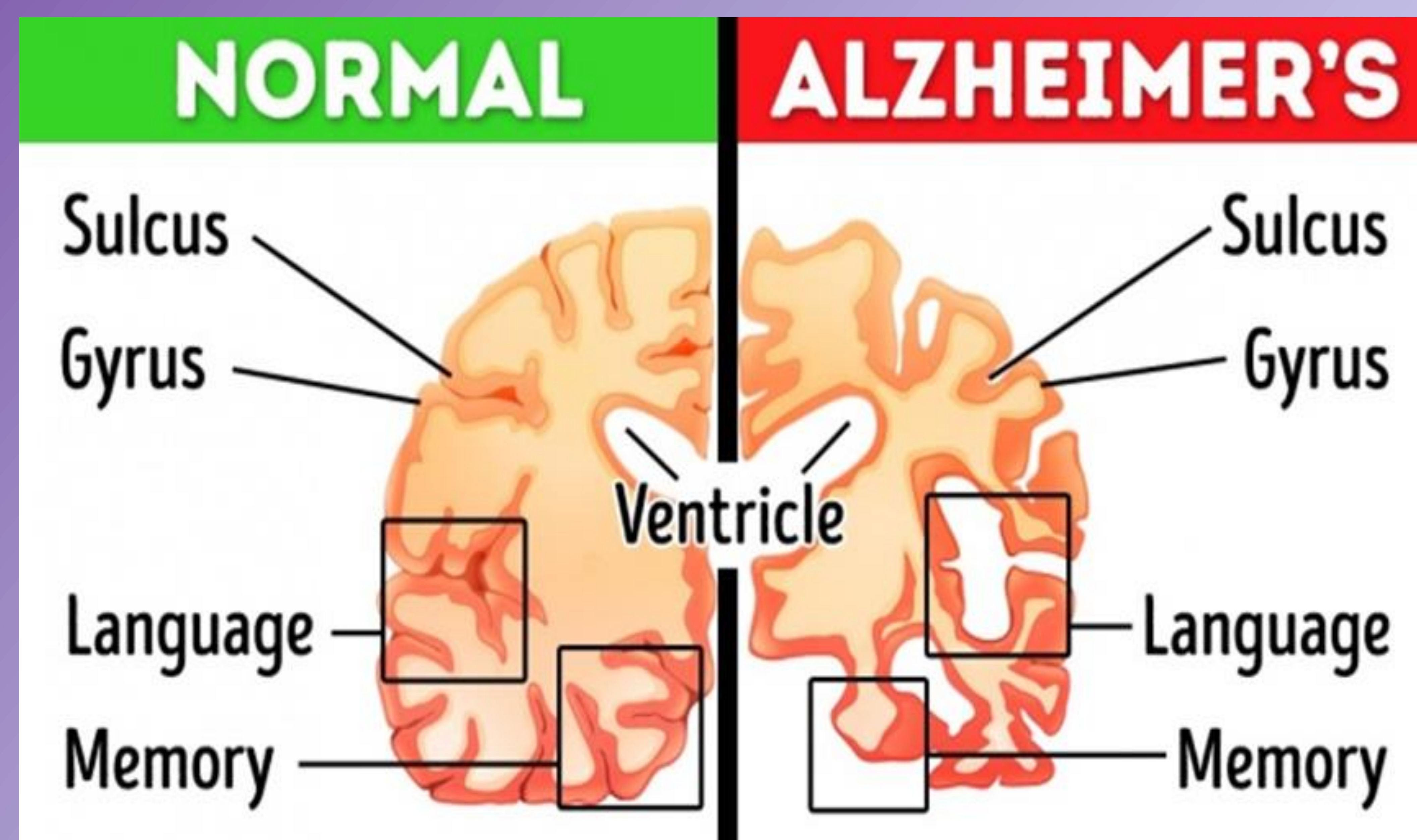


INTRODUCTION

Alzheimer's disease is a neurological disorder which causes the death of cells and memory loss and change in behavior. A person can live with Alzheimer's disease for just a few years. More often, however, people live with it for about 9 years. About 1 in 8 people age of 65 and over has the disease. It is the most common type of dementia, accounting for 60 to 80 percent of cases of dementia in the United States.



CAUSES

- Age: Increases after the age of 65.
- Gender : Women are more susceptible than men.
- Family history: People who have a parent or sibling with Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, but people with this disorder often get Alzheimer's disease in their 30s and 40s.
- Head injury : Some studies have shown a link between Alzheimer' disease and a major head injury.
- Other factors: High cholesterol levels and high blood pressure may also raise your risk.

Table 1: Characteristics of early and late onset of Alzheimer's

Late onset Alzheimer's	Early onset Alzheimer's
Signs first appear in a person's mid - 60s	Signs first appear between person's 30 s and mid - 60s
Most common type	Very rare
May in volve agene called APOE4	Usually caused by gene changes passed down from Parent to child .

DIAGNOSIS

There is no single test for Alzheimer's disease, so doctors will look at :

- 1) The signs and symptoms.
- 2) Take a medical history.
- 3) Rule out other conditions before making a diagnosis.
- 4) Check persons neurological functions, e.g. by testing them balance, Senses, and reflexes.
- 5) Some test may include like urine test, CT or MRI scan of the brain.
- 6) Sometimes the symptoms of dementia are related to an inherited such as Huntington's disease.
- 7) After that Dr. may carry out cognitive and memory loss tests to assess the person's ability to think and remember.

SYMPTOMS

1. Disabilities to take and remember new information, which leads to:
 - ❖ Misplacing personal belongings.
 - ❖ Repetitive questions or conversations.
2. Impairments in reasoning, complex tasking, and exercising judgment :
 - ❖ Poor understanding of safety risks.
 - ❖ Inability to manage finances.
 - ❖ Disabilities in making decisions.
3. Impaired visuospatial disabilities that are not:
 - ❖ Inability to recognize faces or common objects.
 - ❖ Inability to use simple tools, or to wear clothing to the body.
4. Impaired speaking, reading and writing, skills:
 - ❖ Difficulty thinking of common words while speaking, hesitations.
 - ❖ Speech, spelling, and writing errors.
5. Changes in personality and behavior, for example:
 - ❖ Loss of empathy.
 - ❖ Socially unacceptable behavior.

TREATMENT

There are two types of treatment:

- ❖ Memantine is used to treat Alzheimer's disease. It may improve memory, awareness, and the ability to perform daily functions. This medication works by blocking the Action of a certain natural substance in the brain.
- ❖ Cholinesterase inhibitors are efficacious for mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ Lemon balm is an herb that help to transmit nerve signals to the brain and the Ginkgo Biloba is an herb known to support blood flow and oxygen to the brain.

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Incidence Of Alzheimer's When Both Parents Have Disease Compared To the General Population

