

Blood tests may improve Alzheimer's disease diagnosis

Alzheimer's disease may develop when a protein called amyloid builds up in the brain and forms amyloid plaques. As amyloid levels increase, the risk of developing issues with memory and thinking also increases. Amyloid build up may start decades before symptoms of Alzheimer's disease first appear.

Clinicians use a combination of assessments to diagnose Alzheimer's disease. This includes medical history, neurological and memory tests, blood and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) tests, and brain imaging. To measure amyloid protein in the brain, clinicians typically use positron emission tomography (PET) scans and look at CSF, the fluid that surrounds your brain and spinal cord.

What does pTau217 tell us about what is happening in the brain?

People with high levels of pTau217 in their blood most likely also have high levels of amyloid protein in their brain. While a blood test alone is not enough to diagnose Alzheimer's disease, testing for pTau217 in the blood may help predict if someone has amyloid plaques. **This blood test might be useful for early detection of Alzheimer's disease in the future, but scientists need to study pTau217 levels in more people to be sure.**

Researchers are looking for new, and more easily accessible tests to identify changes in the brain in earlier stages of the disease. One way might be to check for a protein called pTau217 in the blood



Contact 808-564-6141 to
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