

NR 546 Week 7 Discussion

1. Compare and contrast the pathophysiology between Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia.
2. Identify the clinical findings from the case that supports a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.
3. Explain one hypothesis that explains the development of Alzheimer's disease.
4. Discuss the patient's likely stage of Alzheimer's disease.

Compare and contrast the pathophysiology between Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia.

Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia are both two neurodegenerative disorders and are irreversible causes of dementia. There is no exact known cause for Alzheimer's disease (AD). Familial AD and late-onset AD seem to be linked to genetic mutations. However sporadic late-onset AD does not. The pathophysiology of AD involves numerous neurotransmitter systems and pathophysiologic processes. Amyloid plaques, neurofibrillary tangle, and neuronal cell death are all factors in the cause of AD (McCance & Huether, 2019). Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) "involve mutation of genes encoding tau protein or progranulin" (McCance & Huether, 2019). It is mainly a sporadic disease. Genetics play a role with almost 40% being familial. FTD is characterized by Neuronal degeneration involving the frontal and anterior temporal lobes of the brain (Khan, 2021).