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A review of the different pathways that lead to neurodegeneration in the pathophysiology of dementia

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Dementia is growing as a major cause of disability in the world due to neurodegeneration. It is considered a syndrome under which several pathologies are included with the hallmark of cognitive deficits and progressive loss of ability in the performance of regular activities of daily life which eventually jeopardize the self-sufficiency of the person suffering the condition; therefore, representing a burden for family careers and health systems all over the world. Aging has been considered the strongest risk factor, but it is not a normal part of it and the incidence is increasing even in younger population. The accumulation of beta-amyloid, hyperphosphorylation of TAU and oxidative stress have been a hardcore of the neurodegenerative process and incredible advances have been done in the research of the pathogenesis lately. We have researched the database of PubMed, Cochrane, Medline, Science-direct and EBSCO, to collect evidence of 325 references on the following subjects, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, pathophysiology, epidemiology, systematic reviews, diabetes, insulin dysregulation, blood brain barrier, genetics and epigenetics. We have made a review to analyze the different theories focusing in the multifactorial interaction in the pathophysiology of the condition. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to pursue further research, which in the near future will offer a more detailed understanding of the process and probably will reveal specific fields to provide effective treatment or preventive strategies in very early stages of the disease, probably isolating certain conditions from the common tree of the syndrome, but with better overall results.

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