Abstract

The presence of aphasia or agraphia easily detectable by a standard history and clinical examination of SDAT patients predicts a high risk of dementia in the parents and sibs of those patients. The appearance of dementia in about 50% of parents and sibs, regardless of sex, is compatible with autosomal dominant inheritance. Familial Alzheimer’s disease is a clinicopathologic entity characterized by a dementia syndrome with prominent aphasia and agraphia. We suggest that it is an autosomal dominant disorder of complete but age-dependent penetrance and that this entity is the most frequent cause of dementia seen in clinical practice.
Familial Alzheimer's disease is associated with defined mutations in the APP and presenilin genes. Polymorphisms in apolipoprotein E (ApoE) are related to the development of cerebral amyloid angiopathy and sporadic Alzheimer's disease. Several factors appear to be associated with an individual at risk for AD. Familial Alzheimer disease is a form of AD with an onset before 60 years of age. At least three fully penetrant genes have been associated with the development of this early-onset AD: the amyloid precursor protein gene on chromosome 21, the presenilin-1 on chromosome 14, and presenilin-2 on chromosome 1 (see Chapter 22). Familial Alzheimer’s disease is an exceedingly rare form of Alzheimer’s, that was recently brought to light by the film, “Still Alice.” Learn more about the heartbreaking disease that devastates families and how you can determine your own risk.

Familial Alzheimer's Disease. Familial Alzheimer’s disease (FAD) is a rare form of Alzheimer’s that is entirely passed down through genetics, being inherited from a parent. FAD accounts for 2-3% of all cases of Alzheimer’s and usually has a much earlier onset than other types of Alzheimer’s, with symptoms developing in people in their 30s or 40s. This r Language disorder predicts familial Alzheimer’s Disease. Johns Hopkins Medical Journal 149, 145–147. Folstein, M. F., Folstein, S. E. & McHugh, P. R. (1975). Dementia of the Alzheimer’s type. Reported at Mini-White House Conference on Aging: Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, Bethesda, MD. Heston, L. L., Mastri, A. R., Anderson, V. E & White, J. (1981). Dementia of the Alzheimer type.