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## Multi-ethnic Neuropathological Comparison of Alzheimer's Disease: Focus on Control Cases

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Several lines of evidence suggest that an individual's risk for Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders may be affected by their ethnicity. For example, the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease is higher among individuals with African ancestry, as is the prevalence of at least one known genetic risk factor. It is not known, however, whether persons of different ethnicity exhibit differing brain pathology during the early stages of neurodegenerative disease.

Dr. Lea T. Grinberg, M.D., Ph.D. and colleagues plan to study brain pathology in more than 500 brain specimens from deceased individuals archived by the Brazilian Aging Brain Study Group. The researchers will record the type, number and distribution of brain lesions in each specimen and then perform an analysis to determine if donors of different ethnic backgrounds exhibit differences in brain lesions. They will compare those of African ancestry with those of southern European and Asian ancestry. Dr. Grinberg and colleagues will also examine risk factors and genetic characteristics to determine if these characteristics are related to differences in brain pathology. This study could advance our knowledge of the pathology of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, and whether differences in ethnicity, risk factors or genetics may cause different forms of brain pathology.