

DETECTING ALZHEIMER'S IN BLOOD

New research at AAIC 2020 points to a blood marker that reflects both plaques and tangles - and may be useful to confirm Alzheimer's as the cause of dementia symptoms.

TAU: ANOTHER BLOOD BIOMARKER EMERGES

TANGLES

Research is looking at twisted proteins called tau tangles that build up inside cells and **may correlate more closely with cognitive decline than beta amyloid.**



PLAQUES These amyloid

protein deposits build up between brain cells in Alzheimer's disease.

New studies reported at AAIC show that a form of tau called p-tau217 seems to be very specific to Alzheimer's disease and, when measured in the blood, may detect brain changes before Alzheimer's symptoms occur.



While still in research stages, **blood tests are easier to administer and more accessible** than current methods of evaluating Alzheimer's.

NEW STUDIES AT AAIC 2020 SUGGEST THAT TAU IN THE BLOOD MAY:

Differentiate Alzheimer's from other dementias

Diagnose stage of disease

Identify appropriate people for clinical trials

Show changes 20 years before dementia symptoms arise

Alzheimer's Association. 2020 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Available at: https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures_1.pdf. Alzheimer's Association. What is Alzheimer's Disease? Available at: https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/what-is-alzheimers. Accessed June 15, 2020. National Institute on Aging. What Happens to the Brain in Alzheimer's Disease? Available at: https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-happens-brain-alzheimers-disease. Accessed June 15, 2020. Hampel et el. Blood-based biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease: mapping the road to the clinic. Nat Rev Neurol. 2018; 14(11): 639–652.