Alzheimer’s: Patients in clinical trials are ‘heroes’

By Dan Nelken

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2012

DEGENERATIVE BRAIN DISEASE

Protein that exists in high amounts in healthy brain builds to abnormally high levels in response to the death of neurons, the brain cell nuclei.

Brain with Alzheimer’s disease

Pathological hallmarks include plaques between neurons; a protein called tau within the neurons becomes abnormal, creating twisted, looped fibers called neurofibrillary tangles.

Normal neuron

Healthy brain

Brain with Alzheimer’s disease

Amyloid plaques

Neurofibrillary tangles

A protein called tau within the neurons becomes abnormal, creating twisted, looped fibers called neurofibrillary tangles. A哥伦比亚 family of more than 200 members complaining of dementia is being studied.

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RISING CASES

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Alzheimer's research: The most promising drug in clinical trials, Bapineuzumab, is being tested by Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Elan Pharmaceuticals, and approved five drugs thatleased symptoms for as long as 12 months, but does not change the disease progression.

THE BODY CAN DISSOLVE PROTEIN

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Brain with Alzheimer’s disease

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Neurofibrillary tangles

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