**History and Causes**

Familial Alzheimer's is caused by numerous reasons. The main reason is age resulting in most cases of Familial Alzheimer. Second is genetics in which three genes may defect in three different chromosomes. Some families have mutations in a gene called amyloid precursor protein (APP), which causes an abnormal form of the amyloid protein or presenilin 1, presenilin 2 in which a protein is produced and disrupts brain function and memory.

**Test and Diagnosis:**

The testing and diagnosis for Familial Alzheimer's is nearly impossible since there is no single clinical test that can be used to identify Familial Alzheimer's. One form is DNA testing in which they check individuals at 50% risk for autosomal dominant and an mutation in a gene. The most common reasons for requesting testing were concern about early symptoms of dementia, financial or family planning, and relief from anxiety.

• The most common diagnosis is developed symptoms of episodic memory loss and subsequently progressed to fulfill criteria for possible or probable Alzheimer's disease.

**Symptoms of Familial Alzheimer's:**

- Anxiety, suspiciousness, and agitation;
- Confusion;
- Difficulties with activities of daily living, such as feeding and bathing;
- Difficulty recognizing family and friends;
- Forgetting how to use simple, ordinary things, such as a pencil;
- Inability to recognize objects;
- Loss of appetite; weight loss;
- Problems finding or speaking the right word;
- Loss of speech;
- Repetitive speaking or action;
- Sleep disturbances;
- Wandering and pacing;
- Very similar to Alzheimer's in general

**Fun Facts:**

- If one of the mutations is present in only one of the two copies of a gene inherited from a person's parents, the person will inevitably develop that form of early-onset Alzheimer's. However, the total known number of these cases is small (between 100 and 200 worldwide)
- True familial Alzheimer's disease accounts for less than 5% of Alzheimer's cases
- The most common age to see Familial Alzheimer's is usually between 50 and 65 years of age, but can be as early as age 15)

**References:**