

International Working group for New Research Criteria for the diagnosis of AD

Research criteria for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease: revising the NINCDS-ADRDA criteria



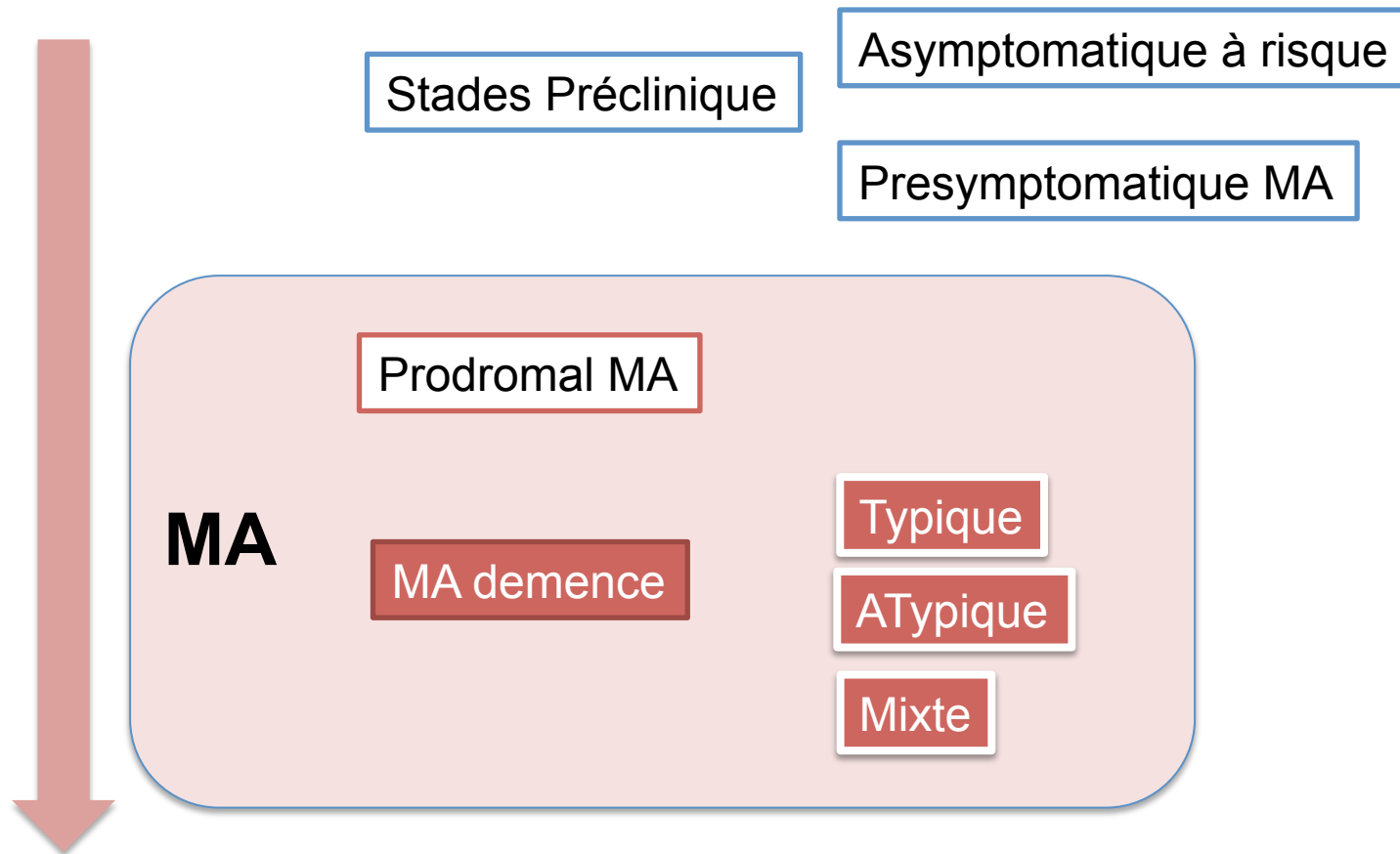
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Revising the definition of Alzheimer's disease: a new lexicon



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Alzheimer's disease (AD)

This diagnostic label is now restricted to the clinical disorder that starts with the onset of the first specific clinical symptoms of the disease, and encompasses both the predementia and dementia phases. AD thus refers to the whole spectrum of the clinical phase of the disease and is not restricted to the dementia syndrome. The diagnosis is now established in vivo and relies on a dual clinicobiological entity that requires the evidence of both specific memory changes and in-vivo markers of Alzheimer's pathology that can include: CSF amyloid β , total tau, and phospho-tau; retention of specific PET amyloid tracers; medial temporal lobe atrophy on MRI; and/or temporal/parietal hypometabolism on fluorodeoxyglucose PET. The clinical phenotype can be typical or atypical. Additionally, two different stages might still be meaningful: a prodromal and a dementia phase.

AD dementia

This term refers to the phase of AD during which cognitive symptoms are sufficiently severe to interfere with social functioning and instrumental activities of daily living, a threshold that is considered to define dementia in association with changes in episodic memory and in at least one other cognitive domain. It might still be meaningful to identify the dementia threshold for clinical trials or social/economic evaluations.

Prodromal AD (also called “predementia stage of AD”)

This term refers to the early symptomatic, predementia phase of AD in which (1) clinical symptoms including episodic memory loss of the hippocampal type (characterised by a free recall deficit on testing not normalised with cueing) are present, but not sufficiently severe to affect instrumental activities of daily living and do not warrant a diagnosis of dementia; and in which (2) biomarker evidence from CSF or imaging is supportive of the presence of AD pathological changes. This phase is now included in the new definition of AD. The term of prodromal AD might disappear in the future if AD is considered to encompass both the predementia and dementia stages.