Coronary artery disease, hypertension, ApoE, and cholesterol: a link to Alzheimer's disease

Considerable evidence now indicates that Alzheimer's Disease is primarily a vascular disorder, based on a number of lines of evidence that point toward impaired circulation of blood to the brain. Vascular risk factors, such as high cholesterol, can be thought of as a ticking time bomb to Alzheimer's Disease. What's bad for the heart may be bad for the mind. Traditionally, there have been two competing theories for the cause of Alzheimer's: the amyloid cascade model that implicates the buildup of amyloid plaques within the brain, and the vascular model, that argues that it is the lack of adequa Coronary Artery Disease. Heart Attack. Heart Failure. Alzheimer's disease often strikes fear in people's hearts because it gradually erodes a person's ability to remember, think, and learn. There is no cure, and available treatments alleviate symptoms only temporarily. An estimated 5.3 million Americans currently have Alzheimer's disease, yet this brain disorder is far less common than heart disease. Many people don't realize that Alzheimer's and heart disease share a genetic link: the apolipoprotein E gene, also known as ApoE. Genetic testing for ApoE — which is done mainly in research settings and isn't yet widely available — cannot predict whether a person will develop Alzheimer's disease, only whether they may be more likely than others to do so.